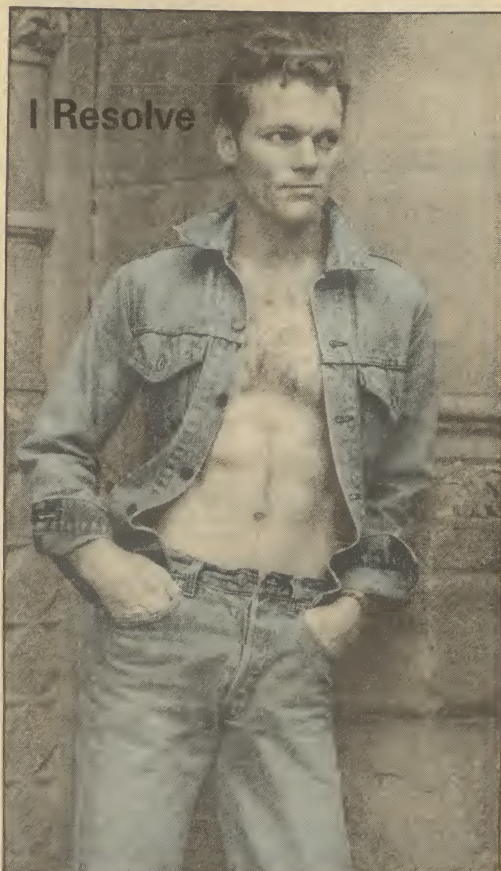


BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XIX NO. 2 JANUARY 12, 1989

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I Resolve

A new year's resolution waiting to be broken? (Photo: S. Savage)

We Beat Larouche Again; City Blocks Shanti Funds

by Ray O'Loughlin

It was a cold spring in San Francisco last year. Shanti appeared to be in trouble as the city withheld funds. Voters chose the Olympics over gay rights, thanks to a ballot initiative supported by pro-games Sen. Quentin Kopp. Once again, the

remnants of the Burton machine blocked lesbian and gay efforts to achieve political office, as John Burton beat Roberta Achtenberg for the Assembly.

But we beat Lyndon LaRouche for the second time. And despite it all, over a

quarter million people proudly turned out for a festive Freedom Day Parade.

Year in Review
Part Two of Four

(Continued on page 17)

Insurance Co. Settlement Calls for Charity Donation

Suit Settled Over AIDS Insurance Policy Claims

by Ray O'Loughlin

A major lawsuit against an insurance company that had briefly offered an AIDS insurance policy reached settlement last week. Coastal Insurance agreed Jan. 5 to pay an undisclosed sum to be divided among six Bay Area charities. The settlement came one week after a San Francisco Superior Court judge ordered the suit to proceed to trial set for May.

The settlement was hailed by attorney Alice Philipson of Berkeley as "a great victory." She added, "Anytime we get an insurance company to agree to anything, it's a victory."

Philipson represented Gary Frantz, who had purchased a Coastal policy for AIDS medical expense insurance in August 1985. The policy, known as the AIDS 1000 policy, was advertised as providing coverage for medi-

cal treatments, hospitalization, and disability due to AIDS.

In March 1986, Frantz was diagnosed with AIDS. He applied for benefits under his Coastal policy in April.

The following February, Coastal sent a written denial to Frantz, refusing to pay any of his claims. The company claimed it was not liable to pay because Frantz' illness was a preexisting condition not covered by the policy.

Frantz sued Coastal in September 1987 for failure to pay \$78,000 in claimed benefits. The suit also asked for punitive and compensatory damages. The suit charged the insurance company with breach of contract and fraudulent advertising.

Frantz died in December 1987. He was 41.

"Coastal Insurance made a boldfaced attempt to profit on the epidemic of fear associated with AIDS," said Philipson. "They pushed insurance onto men at risk of AIDS, and then, when a claim comes in, they refuse to pay it."

The company had hoped to sell at least 5,000 policies. But only 1,000 customers signed up before the company dropped the plan in May 1986. It had been on the market for 18 months.

The reason that Frantz was denied, said company officials, is that his medical records showed he had been suffering from pre-AIDS symptoms prior to applying for the policy. They claimed he had lied on his application about his health status.

Philipson did not buy that. "When someone gets AIDS and files an insurance claim, [insurance companies] go back into medical records and look for anything," she said. "It happens that AIDS and ARC symptoms can be the same as the flu, so they

(Continued on page 2)

Britt Urges Supes To Work Together

Calls for End to Fragmentation; Alioto, Hallinan Join the Board

by Allen White

Harry Britt was sworn in Jan. 9 as the first openly gay president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The moment came when outgoing Pres. Nancy Walker said, "It is now with great pleasure that I ask Sup. Doris Ward and Sup. Richard Hongisto to escort Sup. Britt to this podium."

As he made his way to the chair, the audience rose to its feet in sustained applause. Britt then took his seat as the second highest elected official in San Francisco and one of the highest ranking gay officials in the country.

Mayor Art Agnos told the hundreds crammed into the supervisors chambers that "The board that takes office today will serve until 1991 and thus will help us begin the decade of the '90s. That, in turn, will help us prepare for the next century."

He then noted that Harry Britt "takes office with a vote from the people of this city that broke a historical barrier, because he becomes the first person from his community to become president of this board. He also comes in with a vote and a mandate to continue to help break the barriers."

Agnos then welcomed Britt and the entire new board, which he described as "the class of '89." That new class includes two new members to the board and the election of two others from San Francisco's minority communities.

The two newest members of the board, Angela Alioto and Terrence Hallinan, are products of two of San Francisco's best-known families.

Sitting in the audience was former Mayor Joseph Alioto. The crowd sensed the historical sig-



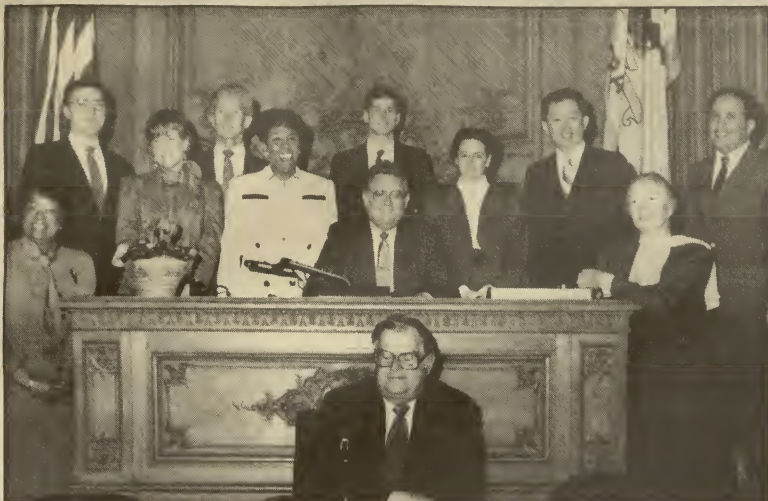
Supervisor Nancy Walker with Sup. Britt at the inaugural.

(Photo: S. Savage)

nificance as the mayor who had served San Francisco over 15 years ago was introduced to the audience by his daughter. Super-

visor Alioto then attempted to name the many Aliotos in the crowd, pointing out the connec-

(Continued on page 2)



Supervisor Harry Britt now heads the board.

(Photo: S. Savage)

Harry Britt

(Continued from page 1)

tions her family has to the city.

The introduction of the Hallinan family was equally as moving. Both Vivian and Vincent Hallinan have helped forge the San Francisco image as a leader in the fight for peace and human rights.

The most emotional moment of the afternoon came when Britt mentioned his mother. She is very ill and is recovering from surgery in Texas. His voice creaking with emotion, he told how she had made sure to know the time zone difference so she would know when her son was being installed in his new position. "For this woman, her heart is in San Francisco," Britt said.

He added, "I am enormously

proud that my brother from Dallas, Steve Britt, could be here for this occasion."

It was then time to introduce and praise his support team, which includes his aides Rick Ruvalo and Jean Harris. He also took time to thank Dick Pabich and Carole Migden for their help.

Pabich has worked with Britt since his first campaign for supervisor ten years ago. This year Pabich not only ran an election

campaign that made Britt the president, but also headed several campaigns including the successful No on Prop. 102 effort.

Migden served as Britt's primary fundraiser. She is also the chair of the San Francisco Democratic Central Committee and, in that role, helped generate the support that turned out the voters last November. "She is the one who made it happen this time," Britt said.

He noted that, among those sworn in Monday, there is a Chinese-American, a Hispanic, a gay man, a black woman, as well as descendants of Italy and Ireland. He then noted that people of other communities who are not on the board "are not alien to us."

Britt then said, "This town is united in its passion that what

constitutes our order is not a single set of beliefs nor a single history that is exclusively American, but is a wonderful coming together of people from all parts of the Earth to celebrate the human spirit and the possibilities of creating a new kind of 21st century."

He then challenged his new board, commenting, "I am not sure this board has always understood how much power we can have and what we can achieve together. Many of us individually have felt limited and that we had to be competitive. I am going to work awfully hard, because I believe this is an outstanding group of people. I hope that we achieve some things that go a little bit beyond anything we dared to think that we could achieve before." ▼

Insurance

(Continued from page 1)

say you had swollen lymph glands and that's a preexisting condition."

According to Philipson, Coastal actually paid only 15 out of 40 claims made by policyholders.

"They're profiting on the epidemic, abusing the gay community," she charged. Frantz' lawsuit alleged that Coastal had engaged in "scare advertising" to get gay men to purchase the AIDS 1000 policy. Ads for the policy contained warnings about the disease being "more widespread than originally thought." They urged prospective customers to sign up before it was too late. The policy specified that cases diagnosed less than 90 days from the date of enrollment would not be covered.

Though Frantz and many other purchasers of Coastal's policy did not see benefits from it, Philipson said the case has taught all insurance companies a lesson. Coastal, she said, is not alone in denying claims.

"They're all doing it. Nobody

pays," she said. She said she knew of a case where an insurance company had sued a policyholder to retrieve benefits. The man did not have AIDS, but had taken part in a research study years earlier in which test results showed him to have a low T-cell blood count.

"Every time an insurance company is sued for nonpayment, it makes them think twice about not paying AIDS claims," said Philipson. "They cannot act with impunity toward people with AIDS."

She said that even though Frantz' lawsuit did not end in a clear judgment against the company, the expense of the litigation cost them. "We kept them in court a long time," she said, adding, "and we brought out in public their advertising claims."

The six charities that will benefit from the settlement are the Shanti Project, Open Hand, Hospice of San Francisco, AIDS Project of the East Bay, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and St. Anthony's Dining Room.

Officials from Coastal Insurance were not available for comment on the suit settlement. ▼

INTERNATIONAL HIV-AIDS RESOURCES

RESEARCH STUDIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HIV-SEROPOSITIVE AND HAVE ANEMIA

ViRx, a private clinical research center, wants you to know about an upcoming drug study for the treatment of anemia, a common problem in HIV-seropositive patients.

There are two studies available: one for persons who are currently taking zidovudine (AZT) and who have a hematocrit of less than 30%; and one for persons not taking zidovudine and who have a hematocrit of less than 30%.

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- Free treatment with drug for final six months of study

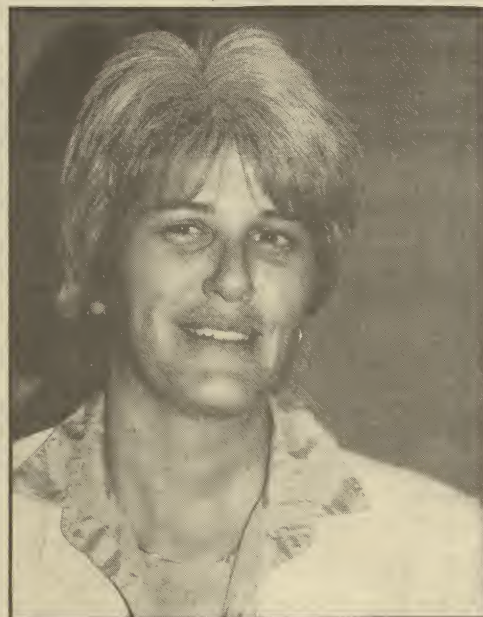
Enrollment for this study begins November 21, 1988. If you are interested in this trial, or future clinical drug trials, please call ViRx Medical Group, Inc. at:

(415) 474-2233



ViRx

ViRx Medical Group, Inc. 655 Sutter Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94102



Alice Philipson.

(Photo: B.A.R.)

Serial Killer Sought for Park Slayings

SAN DIEGO—Police have linked three killings to—and suspect that another one may be the work of—a serial killer in this city's popular Balboa Park area. Police warned gays and homeless people who use the park at night to be especially cautious.

The killings do not appear to be sexually motivated and were probably the result of robberies, said police sources. One report listed the victims as gay men, but police were releasing little information on the cases and would not confirm that report.

—Update

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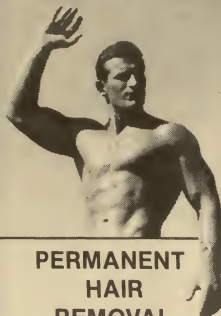
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Church Groups Angry Over Agnos' Choices

**Quinn's Appointment to Panel Protested;
Dignity Pushes for Resignation of Priest**

by Allen White

Members of over a dozen gay religious organizations have been invited to meet Saturday to discuss a strategy to challenge recent appointments by Mayor Art Agnos. Gay religious leaders last week reacted with outrage as he appointed Archbishop John R. Quinn to an AIDS task force. This week members of Dignity/San Francisco also presented the mayor with a letter demanding the resignation of Father Peter Sammon from the Human Rights Commission.

Following the naming last Thursday of the Mayor's AIDS Task Force, the pastors of San

Francisco's two Metropolitan Community Churches hand-delivered a letter to Agnos. In their letter, they noted that "none of the three religious representatives on the panel represent the gay and lesbian community."

The three religious leaders on the 20-member panel are Rabbi Robert Kirschner of Temple Emanuel, Bishop William Swing of the Episcopal Church, and San Francisco Roman Catholic Archbishop John Quinn. The letter stated the MCC pastors are "grateful" for the appointment of Kirschner, but they expressed concern over the appointment of Quinn and Swing.

The MCC letter stated, "The presence of Quinn and Swing without the representation of the gay and lesbian religious community on this panel is as onerous as Pres. Reagan's appointment of Cardinal O'Connor of New York to the presidential commission."

The authors, Rev. Jim Sandmire of Golden Gate MCC and Rev. Jim Mitulski, then said, "We expect more sensitive leadership from our City Hall than we have received from the White House."

The writers pointed out that the gay religious community is one of the most experienced in the nation at dealing with the lives of those affected with AIDS. They did not ask that anyone be removed from the panel. Rather, they asked the panel be expanded to include members of the gay and lesbian religious community.

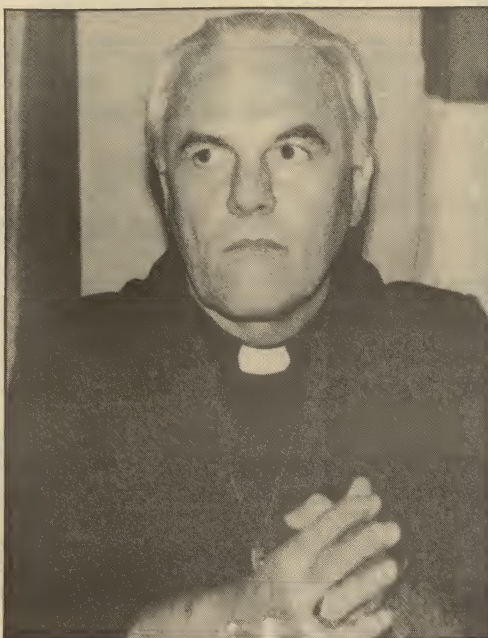
Reverend Jim Sandmire said the letter was hand-delivered to a representative of the mayor's office. He said he was "disappointed" at the response. "They didn't seem to care," he said.

Dignity/San Francisco also delivered letters to the mayor this week. One of the letters was similar to that from the MCC. They, too, asked that he expand the panel.

Dignity and the MCC churches are inviting members of every gay religious organization in the city to a meeting this Saturday. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the mounting problems between the gay religious community and Mayor Agnos.

Kevin Calegari, a spokesperson for Dignity, said, "I know that he did not talk to anybody in the gay and lesbian community about these appointments. I think he has a responsibility to consult an important part of his constituency, and I don't think he has."

Tom McLoughlin, a former head of Dignity in San Francisco, believed the mayor has been "insensitive." "He was cowed by the archbishop and the Catholic Church as having this great power over the city, which it really doesn't," McLoughlin said. "It is no longer an Irish Catholic city. We have a large Asian population. We have a large lesbian and gay population."



Rev. Jim Sandmire

McLoughlin then added, "I don't think he has to kiss the bishop's ass anymore."

This past week Dignity also sent a letter to the mayor asking for the resignation of Father Peter Sammon from the city's Human Rights Commission. A spokesperson for the mayor said he believed the proposal was "silly." Sunday, Dignity co-chair Jim Lonerger responded, "when the mayor gets the letter, he won't think it's so silly," he said.

"We have attempted to point up that, with Archbishop Quinn's action against Dignity/San Francisco, he has affirmed the Ratzinger letter as a policy for any priest in San Francisco," Lonerger said. "Father Sammon is obligated by that to ratify and certify in his own actions the Ratzinger document, which is inconsistent with the city charter."

The Ratzinger letter is a document from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in Rome which stated that homosexuality is a "strong tendency toward an intrinsic moral evil, and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder."

The letter also admonished priests to teach that homosexuality is not to be condoned and advised that when homosexuality is condoned, the church nor society should be surprised "when irrational and violent reactions increase."

Dignity pointed out in their letter to the mayor that the purpose of the Human Rights Commission is directly in opposition to the church. "The official church policy in San Francisco is that gay people in San Francisco have no civil rights," said Lonerger.

He also said, "I believe this is an opportunity to educate the mayor about the implications of the Ratzinger letter, the implications for gay and lesbian people in San Francisco, and tie that to what Archbishop Quinn has done. There are repercussions all the way through."

Lonerger noted that Agnos "has always been favorably thought of in the gay community, and I don't think he understands fully the implications of what he is doing."

Not all members of Dignity are in agreement with the letter being sent to Agnos. Bill Baird, a member of Dignity, also attends St. Teresa's Church, and Father Sammon is his pastor. Baird said,

"I agree with the concern that is being raised between the issues between the archdiocese and the city. I think, in terms of contractual issues, they need to be looked at in light of San Francisco's Human Rights Commission."

He continued, "I think that Father Sammon was appointed because of his personal actions and beliefs, and it is beneficial to have someone on the Human Rights Commission who is from a religious background, who is aware of the gay community, who has had contact with the gay community and has said mass to people in the gay community. I think the request is not going to serve the purposes which they are attempting."

Members of Dignity have repeatedly stated the request is directed at the archdiocese and not at Sammon. In their letter to Agnos, they praised Sammon as a priest who "has demonstrated a kind, caring, and truly pastoral approach to many individuals in our community."

The letter to Agnos also pointed out that "Father Sammon's first loyalties are to his church and its teachings. Individuals that are appointed to the Human Rights Commission must have the interest of the citizenry of San Francisco first and foremost. It is for this reason that we are demanding that you request Father Sammon's resignation."

Bay Area Gay Artists Needed By S.D. Group

SAN DIEGO—Thomas Vegh, Artistic Producing Director for Diversionary Theatre, will interview video and film artists for a Bay Area gay/lesbian film-video program under consideration for presentation in San Diego.

Interested artists are invited to meet with Thomas Vegh Saturday, Jan. 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Theatre Rhinoceros, 1916 16th Street. Artists are asked to bring a resume and/or biography and any print material describing their work. Self-addressed, stamped envelopes are asked to accompany tape and film submissions.

Diversionary is San Diego's gay/lesbian theatre company. ▼

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Congratulations, Sup. Britt

This week history was made in San Francisco. By the will of city voters, Sup. Harry Britt now occupies the second most powerful and visible post in City Hall. Because city voters cast more ballots for Britt than for any other supervisory candidate or incumbent, he is now president of the Board of Supervisors. An openly gay man is now at the center of the power structure of this town.

We congratulate Sup. Britt on his presidency, which comes during the week he is also celebrating his tenth anniversary on the Board of Supervisors. Britt holds two titles, actually. In addition to his official status as president, he now also becomes unofficial dean of the board. With the departure of two other friends of the lesbian and gay community—Sup. John Molinari and Sup. Carol Ruth Silver—Harry Britt now enjoys the most seniority on the board.

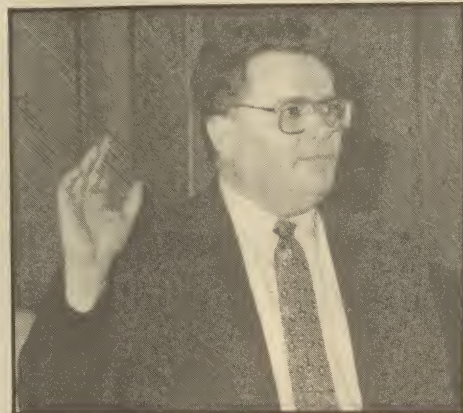
Britt's new prominence represents a step forward for all gays and lesbians. His election is a milestone in gay political history, one part of Harvey Milk's dream fulfilled. He is showing all people that we gay people are capable of such achievement and that many of our concerns are their concerns, as well.

Harry Britt has been a popular supervisor throughout his tenure. He survived citywide elections that conservatives hoped would remove him and others like him from office. He has built alliances with numerous constituencies and tried to ease tensions between this town's polyglot communities where our interests have coincided.

He is not the first, and now—ten years after the loss of Harvey Milk—he is far from the only successful gay public officeholder. But the prominence of his new job is unique. As board president, he wields great power in shaping the agenda for this city and how that agenda is to be carried out. He has appointed other supervisors to committee assignments where key legislation is to be handled. He will be working closely with Mayor Art Agnos. And he will represent this city on numerous public occasions.

With the inaugural parties barely over, Sup. Britt is already at work on representing the interests of the gay and lesbian community. Domestic partner benefits legislation is planned for action early this year. A comprehensive plan will soon be introduced to the board.

AIDS services continue to be at the head of the list for board action. Support services for people with AIDS must be maintained despite the city's budget woes. New services, as well, will have to be developed for new areas, such as the large body of people who are carrying HIV but are not ill. Maintaining their good health is not only compassionate and just, but will likely prove cost-effective in the long run. Keeping people well, working, and independent keeps them productive members of the community, instead of reducing them to consumers of public services.



(Photo: Steve Savage)

Harry Britt wants to "get government working again." He hopes to weld the Board of Supervisors into a cohesive, working body. The board needs to take that direction to get away from the syndrome of 11 individuals working on their own fragmented agendas. He hopes to see some reorganizing of city services along more sensible lines to get control of the runaway city bureaucracy.

Given the skills Britt brings to his new job, his eagerness to lead the board, and the liberal makeup of the new board, we should see some strong action coming out of City Hall to address the problems this city faces. It is time that the legislative body for the City and County of San Francisco face its serious tasks. Yes, we want our town to retain its proud heritage of independent mindedness, caring for justice for all peoples and even its attraction for colorful eccentrics. But we don't need anything more to justify the "Kook City" title.

Britt should lead the board to deal with the problems in the streets of San Francisco, instead of taking on the issues of the Third World. We all want peace in Central America, for example, but our 11 supervisors have enough to do keeping the peace here without getting involved in far-flung conflicts around the globe.

The next two years represent a rare opportunity and a rare challenge not only for Harry Britt, but for this community. We clearly play a central part in the politics of this city and the Bay Area. The old claim that gay and lesbian people are invisible and incapable is being proven false every day. We share in Harry Britt's triumph this week, and we wish him well for the next two years. It will be a new chapter in our struggle for liberation.

OPINION

Legal Remedies Can Protect Lovers

by Lloyd Egenes

The B.A.R.'s story on Sharon Kowalski's problems is the more poignant when one realizes that gay lovers can prevent most, if not all, of those problems if they know what to do and would take legal action.

If each lover would execute a durable power of attorney for health-care reasons, as provided for in California Civil Code, naming his or her lover, it is my opinion that no doctor nor health-care facility could lawfully deny the named lover access to the maker/ill lover. Although it is true that a durable power of attorney for health-care decisions only becomes effective upon the incapacitation of its maker, it is my opinion that such a document gives implicit legal authority to the designated attorney-in-fact to visit the maker in any health-care facility at any and all times. Otherwise, the attorney-in-fact would be prevented from exercising his lawful powers if the attorney-in-fact could not personally consult with the maker, both before and after incapacity sets in.

A durable power gives great authority to the attorney-in-fact, once the maker becomes incapacitated, to either direct the use of or the withholding of any medical procedure, including "pulling the plug" were the maker on life-support machines. Such a document should not be entered into lightly.

There is another related problem that the B.A.R. story did not mention—the family taking over funeral arrangements without regard to the lover. Some years ago a gay client came to me, greatly concerned that his family would take control at the end of his life, dispossessing his lover, and have a funeral in the family religion, which my client had come to disapprove of.

The Legislature took care of that problem in Health and Safety Code 7100. If a person makes a written appointment of an agent, empowering

the agent to dispose of the earthly remains of his principal, that power is legally enforceable. In absence of such a written appointment, the next of kin (spouse or closest blood relative) has the authority.

Health and Safety Code 7100 says such a power can be in any format, and an appointment paragraph found in a will is enforceable even if the will were to be later found invalid. When I draft a will for a gay person who has a lover, I usually include the following paragraph, appointing the lover, tailored to the desires of the individual client:

"Under the provisions of Health and Safety Code 7100, I grant to John Doe the right to dispose of my earthly remains, and I direct that my remains be cremated and spread upon the sea after an appropriate memorial service."

The foregoing provision empowers the agent to claim the remains from the hospital and direct the funeral arrangements and prevents the family from rushing in and taking charge.

Another legal action that might be useful in this connection would be the execution of a durable general power of attorney, either in addition to a durable power of attorney for health-care decisions or by combining both. However, execution of a general power of attorney is a rather drastic step which should be carefully considered with advice from a lawyer.

Persons with AIDS who lack funds can get free help from concerned lawyers by contacting the S.F. AIDS Foundation and probably through the S.F. Bar Association Referral Service, Pro Bono Panel, at 391-6102.

But action must be taken in advance of the problem. Those who fail to plan and take action will turn up as the subject of yet another story like Sharon Kowalski's.

Challenge Assumptions

★ Stuart A. McDonald's letter of Dec. 22 militantly argues the position that one's sexual orientation is determined mainly genetically, but to some extent environmentally and in no case by one's own free will. He states the position as though it were the consensus of firmly established scientific thought, even though the position is, in fact, quite controverted. Although his position is not scientifically established, it seems to me that it does reflect a certain orthodoxy within the gay/lesbian community.

As an orthodox position, McDonald's is comforting and politically useful. It is comforting because it removes any doubts that a person might have about his or her sexual orientation. As McDonald says, "Once a homosexual, always a homosexual. Once a bisexual, always a bisexual. Once a heterosexual, always a heterosexual." It is politically useful because this position then constitutes homosexuals as a minority comparable to ethnic minorities.

However, the position is also politically risky. In less tolerant times, those with what are to be perceived to be genetic degeneracies (and their relatives) may be subjected to sterilization or even genocide. Such was, in fact, the Nazi response to Magnus Hirschfeld's biological explanation of homosexuality.

More importantly, McDonald's argument misses the point. How we came to be homosexual is irrelevant. Our rights as gay and lesbian people are not founded on the theories of any geneticist or biologist or psychiatrist or lawmaker or priest, and consequently they cannot be overturned by their theories. To the extent that we have rights, we have them because we have taken control of our own history, rejecting what all the "experts" said, and fought for our rights. The issue is not whether our sexuality was determined or chosen. The issue is who has the right to regulate our sexuality?

Our integrity as a sexual minority is a political issue, an issue of individual rights and social control. If we leave the issue on the level of McDonald's position, we do not challenge the assumption that society has the right to regulate those sexual acts which we might freely choose. I reject that assumption.

Thomas M. Thurston
San Francisco

No Pomp and Circumstance

★ I have to commend you on the incredible hype job you did for the San Francisco Under Glass New Year's Eve Dance.

Ever since attending this "splashy, flashy party" at the "super party location"—One Market Plaza—my friends and I have been shaking our heads in disbelief and soaking our battered feet.

Get real! "The huge, glassed-in atrium with walkways" was the lobby of a financial district office building. Not my idea of where I want to bring in the New Year.

How can you hold a dance on a cobblestone floor? How can you hold a New Year's Eve dance without celebrating the first few moments of 1989???

The music played right on through with no announcement, no drum roll, no balloons, no pomp and circumstance. After party guests looked at their own watches (the huge wall clock had the incorrect time) and figured out that it was the new year, an undercurrent of New Year greetings could be heard. Sort of.

Forget volunteer DJ's. It would've been worth it to pay a hip DJ to play the hottest songs from 1988, not to mention a retrospective of Sylvester's hits. Not that you could've heard the music clearly anyway; unless, of course, you stood right in front of a speaker. Office building lobbies have lousy acoustics.

What do we have to do to get back into the Gift-center where we belong? If left up to this year's party planners, we'll be ringing in 1990 with complimentary Orange Julius at Serramonte!

S. Bacialli
San Francisco

New Club

★ I just finished reading John Newmeyer's editorial (B.A.R., Dec. 29) regarding the demise of the Comstock Club. John and I are friends and former members of that ill-fated organization. We are also members of a new organization, the St. Francis Club (absolutely no connection to the Comstock or Gemini management), which was formed by former members of the Comstock after it folded. I was therefore surprised that John failed to mention the St. Francis in his letter.

While I agree with the bulk of his letter that the demise of the old organization was due to gross mismanagement and lack of communication (even the "member-run" executive committee was not told of the club's lease problems until two days before the doors were bolted shut), I disagree that anything could have been done by the membership to save the old organization—so great were its wounds.

One of the main problems of the former establishment was that it was formed with a profit motive and was managed from the top down. Membership was barely allowed a voice, and when it was allowed to speak, its words fell on deaf ears.

The St. Francis Club, on the other hand, was formed by its members as a nonprofit, member-run corporation. The board of directors is elected by the members for a one-year term; members serve on the governing committees and set the policy and direction for the club. No one has a financial stake in our success or failure, aside from a nominal membership fee and quarterly dues.

It was decided that membership fees and dues would be kept low in order to attract a more broad-based membership which would draw from all corners of our community, and more importantly, it was decided that more than becoming merely another social organization, philanthropic goals were developed in an effort to give something back to our community.

While it is true that members of the St. Francis Club are not cavorting in a grande manse decorated in the Billy Gaylord style, we hope within two years to buy a suitable facility so that our goals and purposes will be carried on from a permanent location. Granted it would be nice to buy the old facility on Sutter, it just isn't feasible at this time. Until then we will continue to build from the ground up, developing a base of membership that can support such a facility on a sound financial basis without an "angel," thereby becoming a strong, moving force within the community.

We believe we are on the right track.

Larry R. Shockey, President
St. Francis Club, Inc.
San Francisco

Treatment Questions

★ Since so many HIV positive people are taking aerosol pentamidine, perhaps they may want to know about the differences in the way it's being administered in various hospitals throughout the city. It may mean the difference whether or not one comes down with pneumocystis.

The major controversy seems to revolve around whether or not the mist is reaching the upper part of the lungs. One hospital suggests taking a series of rapid breaths every now and then while inhaling. Another suggests raising your arms over your head while inhaling. A third suggests—and perhaps this is the most effective method—lying supine throughout the treatment, shifting from one side to the other (if you lie on your back the liquid may pour into your throat). Some hospitals have not even raised the issue with their patients. Also some hospitals offer albuterol prior to the pentamidine as a means of relaxing the air passages and making the intake less abrasive.

Is this important? I personally know of two people who have been on pentamidine more than six months who were taking it while sitting upright. They both recently contracted pneumocystis (one for the first time, the other was a relapse). Both their before-and-after x-rays revealed that the fungus was localized in the upper lobes of their lungs and that when they completed treatment the lungs were clear.

What we need, of course, is some documentation on the specific details of pneumocystis in patients who have been taking the aerosol. Until that information is gathered, however, you may want to consider discussing these ideas with the medical director of your pentamidine treatment center.

Michael Smith
San Francisco

Hunger Strike

The following was sent to Gov. George Dukemejian:

★ Dear Governor:

The treatment of gay people in this society and in this state has become thoroughly inhumane and intolerable. Therefore, I am today [Jan. 2] entering into a hunger strike to protest your administration's immoral, gay-hating policies and actions which continue to cause the homelessness, unemployment, lack of opportunity, harassment, violence, sickness, poor medical care, overall suffering, and deaths of countless innocent gay people in this state.

Unless you immediately adopt an extensive statewide educational program to counteract pervasive homophobic and AIDS-related bigotry, and sponsor/support comprehensive legislation which will effectively redress anti-gay discrimination and violence, then I will continue this hunger strike until my death. My death, like the deaths of thousands of gay people in this state, will also be on your head.

Stuart A. McDonald
San Francisco



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Beating A Dead Horse

★ Pass that club and allow me to beat this dead horse one more time. After much self-restraint, I am writing in regard to the letters from Shanti staff members Tim Teeter and Dusty Helsabeck. These two individuals evidently thought they were addressing the central issues I raised a few weeks back—an article they read, but obviously didn't understand.

In that piece I said it was totally inappropriate for the Shanti Board of Directors to pay off Jim Geary with a \$73,000 settlement since this nonprofit organization receives one-third of its funds from public coffers. I also called for the board's resignation for breaking the community's trust and to make way for more qualified individuals experienced in solving complex managerial dilemmas such as this. The current members served well for a while, but now they are evidently in over their heads. It can happen to any of us.

The subsequent letters from Teeter and Helsabeck simply prove an old adage: you can give a kperson a mind, but you can't make him think. First of all, the alleged donations to pay for Geary's bon voyage came long after the board's decision to make a cash settlement. Therefore, Tim and Dusty, at the time the decision was made, the only place the money could have come from was Shanti's current operating budget. You see now, that makes their decision inappropriate. We are talking here about the ability to make appropriate decisions for a large nonprofit organization, not about finding someone to bail us out after we screw up.

Secondly, if people are actually coming forward with the payoff money, are you asking us to believe that money would not otherwise have been donated to Shanti? Even a board member with whom I discussed the matter said that probably was not the case, that the money probably would have been donated anyway... except, of course, now it won't go to serve clients.

There are many people who are saying or implying that no one should criticize Shanti and other admittedly admirable and effective organizations. I suppose these people hold to the "avocado axiom" that a friend is someone who will support you and make you feel good about whatever you do. To those people I say exactly what I recently said to a Shanti board member: God save me from friends like that. A friend is someone who will love you and tell you the truth, regardless of whether or not you like hearing it.

Three members of Shanti's board were and still are my good friends. I care for them a great deal. The truth—as I and many others see it—remains: they acted inappropriately. I vehemently disagree with what they did and want to do whatever I can to see that such a thing never happens again.

Soon there will be a new board and we will praise them and criticize them and we will all be better for it. So, Dusty and Tim, just take the criticism and go on with whatever it is you do. I've had to do that in the past; I'll probably do it again a week after this is printed.

All the community asks is that those who are running our institutions be intelligent, sensitive and professional enough to observe and learn from their mistakes. Those who can't do that might be better off involving themselves in work that doesn't require a thick professional skin, a modicum of intellect and a certain amount of maturity.

Krandall Kraus
San Francisco

Gay Spirit

★ I have followed the controversies involving the Names Project: (1) no longer making use of the word gay and (2) altering one of the quilt pieces without permission of its creator. I think both of those decisions were planned and thus are violent acts toward gay people and display internalized homophobia and self-oppression on the part of the Names Project leadership.

It is my opinion that rather than choosing not to be political as Scott Davis alleged in his letter of Jan. 5, the leadership of the Names Project is indeed choosing to be most political. They are choosing the path of "de-gayizing" AIDS in hopes of getting the public to be more sympathetic towards people with AIDS.

Well guess what folks, wake up and smell the roses, gay people have AIDS and stopping the use of the word gay in connection with AIDS and the "AIDS Quilt" will not change that fact. Other minorities have AIDS. And, yes straight peoples' babies have AIDS.

The underlying attitudes of the Names Project leadership would have us believe that if we stop emphasizing gay and get a media blitz on all the babies getting AIDS that maybe we can ride into glory on John Wayne's horse and they might forget that we are gay and that we have AIDS and then maybe they will treat us with respect. After all, we all know that if gay people would just not "flaunt it," just not push their sexual preference on others, then they would

accept us and like us. This is a political stance: a dangerous one.

As far as I am concerned, people with AIDS have a right to treatment, love and understanding as the people they are, gay, black, brown, prostitutes, drug addicts, babies, Africans—all so-called undesirables except for the babies. To all of a sudden stop including gay people as people with AIDS is criminally homophobic. To all of a sudden attempt to sterilize all people with AIDS into a melting pot of colorless, lifeless memories in hopes to get more acceptance is political; fascist at best.

Perhaps the Names Project's next step would be to take a can of white spray paint and cover the 10,000 quilt pieces, then we can finally all be the same and white at that. After all we know that colorless white is superior to other colors of this creations rainbow.

A wing of the gay political community has long tried to perpetuate this idea. "We are the same as you, except for what we do in bed." "We are people, just like you." We will get rid of the stereotypes and then you will see how we can all be "the best little boy in town" and then will you please let us into your political organizations and let a few of us get elected.

Of course, the favorite expression of all well-meaning, homophobic, self-hating homosexuals is "My life is more than just being gay."

Gay people are the only minority group that takes its own big bang, unique distinctiveness, and says it is not important.

All other minorities look to their differentness and seek to express it in their lives. In fact, they are encouraged in therapy, career choices, and their personal lives to be unique. It's the new age thing to do. Oh, but not for gay people. No, we are just like everybody else. Oh, please master say it is true, say I am just like you, and I promise to hate myself for all eternity.

I personally have spent a lot of time learning to love myself for being a gay man. Unlearning the homophobic, heterosexist attitudes ingrained deep in my consciousness was only the beginning. I am not the same as everyone else. I have gay attitudes about life. I am different inside. I have a gay spirit. I am proud of that differentness and I joyfully explore that differentness called gayness everyday that I can, in spite of all the heterosexist attitudes and homophobic homosexuals that wish to stifle my creative gay self.

Stephen Fish
San Francisco

Conspicuous Pretension

★ It's a very amusing parody by reader John Newmeyer on the need for a Son of Comstock Club as a haven for "power" gays with \$40,000 of annual spendable cash. There is a certain perverse charm in these days when so many reassess the effect of past excesses on life quality, that there is someone out there who champions conspicuous pretension.

Of course, the reality is that gays who made this kind of "power" money on their own—assuming that they would want any gay identification at all—would not have much interest in the society of inheritors of money "power." Picture it. We're talking about a room of people 80 percent of whom think asset acquisition is a cultural accomplishment and who can describe possessions only by brand name. Having fun?

Comstock II would surely fail for the same reason as Comstock I. When you think about it, who needs it? Well, purveyors of goods and services, lonely people, neighbors, some others maybe.

Mr. Newmeyer's subtle humor is best where he ends his letter bewailing the need for a sugar person to pay for the fantasy toy. Anyone with a checkbook that fat, who didn't learn better from the first time around, certainly deserves to lose it.

Richard Nelson
San Francisco

Lapse in Propriety

The following was sent to the Dallas Times-Herald in Dallas, TX:

★ I have lived in several cities throughout the United States and have never experienced the disarming negative feelings toward a community as I feel at the moment for the city of Dallas, again, as once before on Nov. 22, 1963.

I certainly hope that the comments made by Judge Jack Hampton in connection with the sentencing of the killer of two young men does not in any way reflect the general thinking and opinions of your city.

Please do what you can to lessen the unfavorable impact of Judge Hampton's words.

This is one world, and compassion and justice should never be compromised by base prejudice.

I, with a pained heart, forgive Judge Hampton his lapse in propriety and professional wisdom.

Carlos Padilla
San Francisco

Welcome to San Diego

★ In July I moved to San Diego after living in San Francisco for over six years. It has been a real experience living in the Southland. In August, less than a month after moving here, I went to a chiropractor for a minor back alignment. After the chiropractor determined that I was HIV-positive, he refused to come out of his office to see me and referred me back to the AIDS clinic. This was clearly discrimination in my mind. As a result, I have contacted a lawyer through the AIDS Foundation, and we are taking legal action. A few days later I was talking to someone in a local pub, and when it was mentioned that I had recently moved from San Francisco, this person got up and walked away. "Welcome to San Diego."

Even more disturbing was the fact that I would walk down the streets in the Hillcrest area of San Diego and find new posters advertising the Neo Nazi Party and the elimination of the gay community, Jewish community, and black community being promoted on several telephone poles and sidewalks. I began to read about gangs of youths (usually about 15 in each group) roaming the parks and streets, attacking people and beating them.

In one two-week period in August, there were 11 attacks in the Hillcrest area. In the months that have followed, we are now having murders (three in December alone, and one drive-by shooting). While we have not been able to prove that these murders are related to the skinheads or the Neo Nazi Party, we do know that violence is on the steady increase in San Diego.

So far the police have been cooperative, but we have much to do to remedy the situation here. As a result, we have founded an organization patterned after the CUAV in San Francisco. But we are in need of help in getting this organization off the ground.

Robert E. Walsh, Jr.
San Diego

Raising Rent

★ Recently, MCC at 150 Eureka Street decided to raise monthly rents for all the 12-Step programs that meet there. There are literally dozens of such meetings at MCC—AA, NA, OA, SLAA, etc. and none of these groups are about making a profit, being "self supporting by our own contributions" (7th Tradition).

For a so-called "Christian" church that purports to serve the needs of the gay community to raise rental fees across the board for organizations such as AA, NA, etc. is unconscionable. Statistics have shown that approximately one-third of our community is alcoholic, drug-addicted or both. If MCC cared a hoot about the health of the community it claims to serve, they would be rushing to lower their rents to 12-Step programs that meet at their facility, not raising them.

MCC's profit-oriented agenda includes scheduling noisy dances upstairs while meetings are happening downstairs, scheduling piano recitals in rooms directly adjacent to noisy meetings, and the like. To me, this smacks of hypocrisy and greed.

MCC itself does nothing for our alcoholics, our drug addicts, our homeless and those living with AIDS. Instead, it talks out of one side of its face about how it ministers to the gay community and out of the other side of its face it's all about making bucks and charging the programs that really help our community exorbitant rents. Oppression, disguised as "Christianity," raises its ugly head once again.

I owe my life to AA and NA. Whose life has been saved by MCC's misguided ministry?

John Connolly
San Francisco

Face Facts

★ According to various reports, the mayor's office thinks that San Francisco gays are being "parochial" for objecting to Father Peter Sammon being named to the Human Rights Commission and to Archbishop John Quinn being named to the Mayor's Task Force on the HIV Epidemic.

In the recent past, I have greatly admired and supported the enlightened policies of Mayor Agnos *vis a vis* the gay community. In a similar vein, I have also appreciated Archbishop Quinn's leadership in opposing the Briggs initiative that would have denied gays the right to teach in the public schools, the archbishop's condemnation of the radical LaRouche and Dannemeyer AIDS initiatives, and the archbishop's support of hospice care for those who are doing battle with the ravages of a devastating epidemic.

Why, then, as a former teacher who happens to be a gay man with AIDS, would I oppose the mayor's appointment of these two Roman Catholic leaders to the aforementioned civic commissions?

The answer is simple. These two well-intentioned gentlemen represent the most repressive institution the world has ever known with regard to their his-

torical treatment of homosexuals. Of course, the medieval Inquisition was the apex of the church's persecution of gays. It was during this dark period of history that the Roman church gave gays the ultimate perjorative, "faggots," by which we continue to be known by so many bigots today.

But, as everyone should be forcefully reminded, things have not really changed all that much since that terrible time. Only this past year, the currently-functioning Vatican Office of the Inquisition declared that I and all of my gay brothers and sisters are an "intrinsic moral evil" that is not to be tolerated within the church. And going beyond their condemnation of gays within the church itself, it has been the Roman Catholic clergy who in the last several years have been among those in the forefront of opposing proposed nondiscrimination legislation in dozens of American cities and states.

So come on, folks! Face facts. As nice as the good father and archbishop may seem to a lot of you, these fellows represent one of the most despicable organizations on Earth in regard to gay and lesbian people. Do you really expect gays to quietly accede to a travesty in which our most vocal historical enemies are being appointed to groups that are supposed to safeguard our civil liberties and our health?

Such an action as this is not unlike the thought of Gov. George Deukmejian appointing the local Turkish consul general to a California commission whose stated purpose would be to defend and support American citizens of Armenian heritage. On its face, the proposition is illogical and grossly insensitive.

Dusty Helsabeck
San Francisco

Free From What?

★ Lee R. Lasley didn't understand my letter regarding the origins of sexual orientation, and didn't deal with my arguments in his letter. In fact, he merely gave his own theory, compared it with a couple of passages of my letter, and then called mine ludicrous because it didn't fit within his theory.

Growing up Mormon, I recognize his letter as the identical propaganda that Mormons use as justification for their immoral, scapegoating abuse of gay people. His letter shows only that he has sold out his intellectual integrity, and his fellow gays in order to be accepted by a thoroughly homophobic religion. Which religion is it, Lee?

Explain to me, Lee, why homosexuality runs in families; and why identical twins, separated at birth and raised in entirely different environments nearly always end up with the same sexual orientation? If one ends up homosexual, the other nearly always ends up homosexual.

Define "free will." Lee. Free from what? Free from itself? Free from all cause and effect, including its own characteristics? Confess, Lee: "free will" is just an intellectual boogeyman which allows you to justify your continuing intellectual and moral sellout.

Explain homosexuals who were never exposed to homosexuals or homosexuality, who never engaged in any homosexual acts until well into adulthood, but found themselves strongly sexually attracted only to members of their same gender from the time of their first sexual awakenings in early puberty.

Explain the mechanism by which we *choose* to be homosexual, or *choose* to eroticize others of the same sex. Is "behaving as a heterosexual" the same as being a heterosexual? Justify your assertion that just because something is learned, it can always be modified.

Finally, justify your assertion that the homosexual condition is a "mis-function" or "aberration." Are homosexuals "poor" and "pathetic" regardless of the cause, or only if a cause of the homosexual condition is a genetic pre-disposition?

Stuart A. McDonald
San Francisco

No Choice

★ This is in response to Lee Lasley in your last issue.

I'm tired of hearing straights accusing me of making a choice about my gayness. But now I have to hear it from a gay man too. Environmental or genetic, I had no choice of any kind in being gay. He says you can choose to be a hetero if you want. Going to bed with females doesn't make you straight. It's what you desire that does, regardless of what you do or want. His way of thinking is very similar to the way religious nuts think.

If by some "miracle" science found out that being gay was normal and being hetero was not, do you think that all the straight men would drop their female partners and take up with males? Of course not. If they were pressured into doing so they would still sneak around like closeted gays to pick up what they preferred.

If Lasley made a choice about his gayness, why doesn't he choose to go straight. He can't, although he seems to sound as if he has tried or wants to. He's very confused.

F. Medina
San Francisco




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
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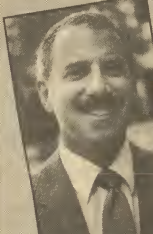


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Dianne Feinstein in the 1990 Gubernatorial Free-for-All

Governor Feinstein? While some are saying that the perception that **Dianne Feinstein** left San Francisco with serious financial problems will be too much for her to overcome, others say that her high name identification and the fact that she will probably be the only woman in the race make the for-

mer mayor one of the early favorites to capture next year's Democratic nomination to succeed retiring Gov. **George Deukmejian**.

When the Republican incumbent announced last week that he would not seek a third term as the state's chief executive, a political

chain reaction not seen in California in years was under way.

Attorney Gen. **John Van de Kamp**, seen as the early Democratic frontrunner by many, wasted no time in announcing that he was in the race. State Controller **Gray Davis**, a former assemblyman and chief of staff under Gov. **Jerry Brown**, announced that he would soon make an announcement. And Feinstein changed political gears quickly (she had all but decided against running if Deukmejian were again a candidate) and announced that she was filing a "declaration of intent" to seek the Democratic nod.

Feinstein detractors should not be too quick to write off the former mayor. This woman has political survivability, and if Davis joins Van de Kamp and becomes a candidate, they could easily split the vote-rich southern part of the state, and Feinstein, the woman candidate from Northern California, would become a strong candidate to take the nomination.

Others said to be looking at the Democratic race include Lt. Gov. **Leo McCarthy**, who just suffered a big defeat in a run at U.S. Sen. **Pete Wilson's** seat in the November election. McCarthy's entry into the race would be a setback to Feinstein. Some thought that the lieutenant governor might enter the race to ensure Feinstein's defeat, since the former mayor did nothing to help McCarthy in his race against Republican Wilson, an old friend of Feinstein.

Deukmejian, first elected in 1982 when he narrowly defeated L.A. Mayor **Tom Bradley**, announced he was giving up politics to return to private life. But most Sacramento political observers say that the two-term governor is looking for a possible appointment in the Bush administration.

The scramble was on among Republicans for the governor's job within hours after the Deukmejian announcement. Outgoing baseball commissioner **Peter Ueberroth**, L.A. Police Chief **Daryl Gates**, and state senators **Bill Campbell** and **Ken Madry** were among possible GOP candidates.

Senator **Pete Wilson**, reelected to a second term in November, is considered by most as the GOP's top hope, but he was showing no signs of wanting to move from the Senate to Sacramento.

With the primary to choose the gubernatorial candidates over a year away, the early signs showed a race for the Democrats shaping up between Van de Kamp, Davis, and Feinstein, with



Dianne Feinstein is ready to run for governor.

the former San Francisco mayor seen as a top candidate—maybe even the favorite. Republicans, who thought they had a sure winner in George Deukmejian before he suddenly threw a wrench in their hopes, were left without a serious candidate. As one top Republican put it, "Now where do we go—Mike Curb?"

A tip for the political junkies: Keep an eye on Dianne Feinstein.

Supervisor **Harry Britt** took over as president of the Board of Supervisors this week, and no person in city government is better qualified for the job. Britt works hard at his job, keeps an ear tuned to his constituents, and we have every reason to be proud of him. Harry Britt—a good man with a bright political future.

Showing that he knows how to play the game and stay in power ("reward your friends, punish your enemies"), Speaker **Willie Brown**, playing political hardball, announced his committee assignments last week. A look at the legislative committees shows that not one Republican nor any member of the dissident "Gang of Five" Democrats was named by Brown to chair any of the Assembly's 24 committees.


Upon hearing of Gov. Deukmejian's decision to retire last week, Speaker Brown commented that he regretted "the state's loss," adding that Deukmejian "has not been as horrible as we have sometimes painted him to be."

Both U.S. Sen. Wilson and Sen. **Alan Cranston** have announced they will vote against the congressional pay raise (to \$135,000) if the increase goes to a congressional vote. (You can bet your rear end, however, that neither will refuse the raise when it goes into effect.)

Attorney Gen. **John Van de Kamp's** announcement that he will run for governor in 1990 leaves a vacancy in the AG's spot, among early probable candidates for the job are San Francisco District Atty. **Arlo Smith**, Burlingame attorney **Joseph Cotchett**, and L.A. District Atty. **Ira Reiner**.

Northern California U.S. Atty. **Joseph Russoniello** is considering seeking the Republican nomination for Van de Kamp's job. Russoniello, a conservative Republican, has been mentioned as a possible candidate for San Francisco mayor. But when asked

(Continued on page 12)



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MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

Comparisons Between AIDS and World War I

Although I have heard a number of people make comparisons between the World War I and AIDS generations, I was not struck by the force of their argument until I read an article by John Newmeyer, "Demographic Catastrophe and Social Adaptation: The Impact of AIDS," which appeared in the pages of the Bay Area Reporter a year ago.

In this article, Newmeyer, an epidemiologist at the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, listed 12 parallels between "the experience[s] of European youths from belligerent nations during World War I and groups at risk for AIDS." The most obvious of these was that, in both catastrophes, the groups most seriously affected were males aged 20 to 45.

Furthermore, noted Newmeyer, "the catastrophes struck at young men who had enjoyed a rich flowering of their culture just prior to the disaster." Other parallels include a sense of alienation between the affected groups and those less affected, a disillusionment with traditional authority, a search for "alternate forms of succor," and a high degree of survivor guilt.

Most importantly, however, both groups endured "especially vivid horrors" which left those who survived psychologically wounded. Not only was there a growing sense of endlessness as conditions worsened, but there was also an accompanying surge of hopelessness and despair.

Many young men abandoned their attempts to find a reason for the disaster—as well as their faith in an ordered, rational universe—and maintained, instead, that all was essentially meaningless.

Newmeyer concluded his article by making several predictions, both discouraging and encouraging, concerning the present AIDS generation. On one hand, "there will be a deeply felt cynicism and bitterness" about the medical and political establishments. On the other, "social cohesion among gay men will increase."

In any event, the AIDS trauma "will maintain a hold on the mind[s] of this generation of gay men for the rest of their lives."

As a member of this generation of gay men, I know very well how AIDS is affecting my life. I soon learned exactly how World War I affected the lives of my grandfather's generation when, a few months after reading Newmeyer's article, I read *All Quiet on the Western Front*, a horrifying tale of death, disease, hunger, mutilation, poison gas, bayonets, rats, lice, rain, and mud.

Unfortunately, Erich Maria Remarque, the young German soldier who wrote *All Quiet* ten years after the war, was too young to have experienced "the rich flowering" of culture before the war: "The war swept us away. For the others, the older men, it is but an interruption. We, however, have been gripped by it and do not know what the end may be. We know only that, in some strange and melancholy way, we have become a wasteland."

Remarque was not too young, however, to experience the sense of alienation and distrust of authority to which Newmeyer referred: "The idea of authority was associated in our minds with a greater insight and a manlier wisdom. But the first death we saw shattered this belief. We had to recognize that our generation was more to be trusted than theirs. We were all at once terribly alone; and alone we must see it through."

In seeing it through, Remarque discovered that the values he had been taught, such as the sanctity of life, had become meaningless: "When a man has seen so many dead, he cannot understand any longer why there should be so much anguish over a single individual."

Indeed, the taking of life, "that very crime on which formerly the world's condemnation and severest penalty fell, [became] our highest aim."

Concluded Remarque, "How senseless is everything that can ever be written, done, or thought when such things are possible." He further confessed, "All at once, everything seems to me confused and hopeless. It is the common fate of our generation. The war has ruined us for everything. We are cut off from activity, from striving, from progress. We believe in such things no longer, we believe in the war."

Like Newmeyer, however, Remarque envisioned one hope for salvation that prevented him from becoming "nothing but an agony for myself [and] for everything that is so comfortless and without end." This was what he called "the finest thing that arose out of the war—comradeship." In one of the book's most moving passages, he described a rare moment of serenity:

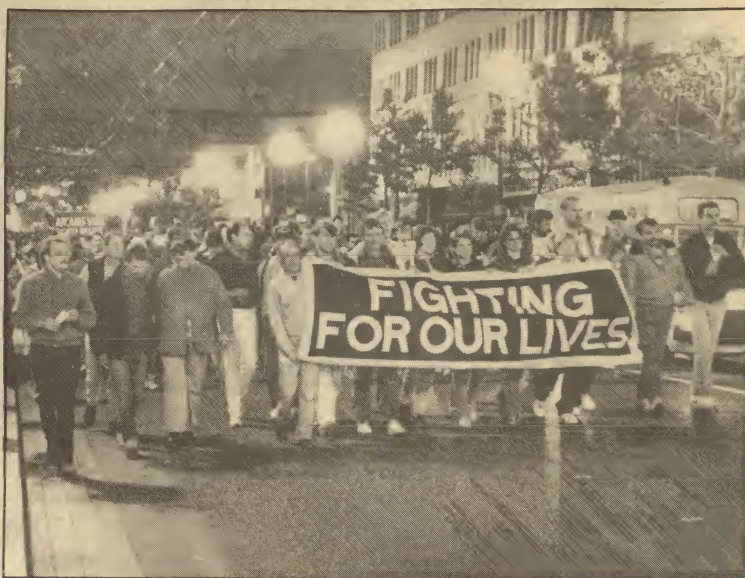
"At once a new warmth flows through me. These voices, these few quiet words, these footsteps in the trench behind me recall me at a bound from the terrible loneliness and fear of death by which I had been almost destroyed. They are more to me than life, these voices, they are more than motherliness and more than fear; they are the strongest, most comforting thing there is anywhere: They are the voices of my comrades."

"I am no longer a shuddering speck of existence alone in the darkness: I belong to them, and they to me; we all share the same fear and the same life; we are nearer than lovers, in a simpler, a harder way; I could bury my face in them, in these voices, these words that have saved me and will stand by me."

"Our only comfort is the steady breathing of our comrades asleep, and thus we wait for the morning."

Remarque died in 1970 at the age of 72—a survivor. I do not know if he ever came to terms with the war. I know only that, through his book, he tried. In our own way, the members of my generation are coping as best we can with our own catastrophe.

There is a major difference, however. Remarque's war ended over 70 years ago. Ours continues.



AIDS Memorial March

(Photo: S. Savage)



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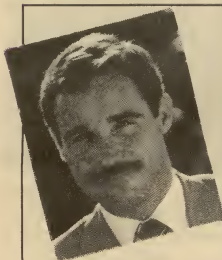
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Friday

(Continued from page 10)

about it last week, he snapped:
"It's obviously not in the foreseeable
future, given the political
climate of a town that votes for
Jesse Jackson, is against drug-
testing, and thinks homosexuality
is an alternative lifestyle." (Maybe
George Bush can find this guy
a job in Mississippi someplace?)

The federal budget sent to
Congress this week by the
Reagan administration
includes a 24 percent increase in
AIDS spending. In its health and
human services budget, the ad-
ministration recommends \$2.5
billion in AIDS spending—\$1.6
billion for research, education,
and prevention, and \$925 million
for treatment and other assis-
tance for AIDS sufferers.

The surprise announcement by
L.A. Councilman Zev Yaroslav-
sky that he will not oppose Mayor
Tom Bradley in this spring's pri-
mary left some gay and lesbian
political activists in that city out
in the cold. A number of gays had
already committed to Yaroslav-
sky, and the mayor is reportedly
one who doesn't forget easily.

Meanwhile, in Oakland, both
Wilson Riles Jr. and Assembly-
man Elihu Harris are expected to
run for mayor next year. There,
too, important gay and lesbian
activists will be pressured to take
sides between two men with pro-
gay records.



Louise Renne.

Upon hearing that Michael
Dukakis had decided against
another term as Massachusetts
governor to presumably prepare
for another presidential bid, one
congressmember, who said that
the lure of presidential races



Mayor Art Agnos congratulates Britt.

(Photo: S. Savage)

often proves strong for those who
have tried and lost, commented
that "the only known cure for
this presidential fever is embalm-
ing fluid."

At City Hall they are telling me
that the domestic partners legis-
lation is about to get a new look
before being reintroduced at the
board. Apparently the legislation
will not be promoted as a gay
issue, and I understand that it
even gets a change of name and
will be referred to as "extended
family benefits."

Don't look for Louise Renne
to join any Feinstein-for-governor
effort. There is little love between
Renne and the former mayor,
despite Feinstein's being respon-
sible for Renne's political career.
(She appointed her to both the
Board of Supervisors and to her
present city attorney job.) Renne
says she is "solidly behind John
Van de Kamp."

The Niners are going to the
Super Bowl, and Ronald Rea-
gan is going into retirement—
1989 is already starting off as a
better year than the last. ▼

Operation Concern's AIDS Family Project

Operation Concern announces
the startup of a new program, the
AIDS Family Project, to counsel
the families of persons with
AIDS/ARC. Funded by the
James Irvine Foundation for
\$100,000 a year for three years,
the AIDS Family Project has
completed staff hiring and is
beginning a needs assessment/
outreach phase.

The project will have three ma-
jor service components: outreach
to hospitals and other agency/
medical settings where families
of affected patients gather; direct
services to family members in the
form of couples, family, group
therapy, and case management;

training and consultation to com-
munity members and health pro-
fessionals.

The AIDS Family Project was
developed in response to commu-
nity need for mental health ser-
vices to families (lovers, friends,
parents, siblings, and children) of
persons with AIDS/ARC since
the onset of the AIDS epidemic.

Operation Concern is pleased
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Mesch Quits As Leader of CUAV

Anti-Violence Group Hopes to Find Strong Fundraiser for New Director

by Dennis McMillan

Beverly Mesch, executive director of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), has announced her resignation from the anti-gay-violence agency. CUAV will be seeking a new director as of Feb. 10 and will be releasing announcements concerning the job opening at the end of January.

AIDS Oversight Committee Formed

Eight experts have been appointed by the governing Councils of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences to monitor the nation's response to the AIDS epidemic and to identify areas requiring further action by the IOM and other organizations.

This AIDS oversight committee is composed of specialists in biomedical research, social and behavioral sciences, health care, public health, and health care policies. Some 80 "correspondents" from such pertinent disciplines as virology, epidemiology, behavioral sciences, and law will assist the committee by keeping it current on developments in their fields of expertise.

One of the oversight committee's first projects will be updating the 1986 IOM/NAS report, "Confronting AIDS: Directions for Public Health, Health Care, and Research." The new version is expected to be completed in early summer.

Theodore Cooper, executive vice president of The Upjohn Co., heads the committee. A cardiologist and pharmacologist by training, Cooper brings to the committee broad experience in health policy issues as they affect government and industry. He was a staff member of the National Heart and Lung Institute for several years and served as assistant secretary for health at the then Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in the 1970s.

Support for the committee's activities has been provided by the National Research Council Fund and Merck & Co., Inc. Additional support is expected from the U.S. Public Health Service.

Another activity recently initiated by the National Research Council is the Committee on AIDS Research and the Behavioral and Social Sciences. Chaired by Lincoln Moses of the Department of Statistics at Stanford University, this committee will examine the contributions that social, behavioral, and statistical sciences can make to understanding the epidemic and altering its course. This committee's first project will be to identify populations who may be at high risk for AIDS and who should receive high priority in education efforts. The National Research Council is the principal operating agency of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering. ●

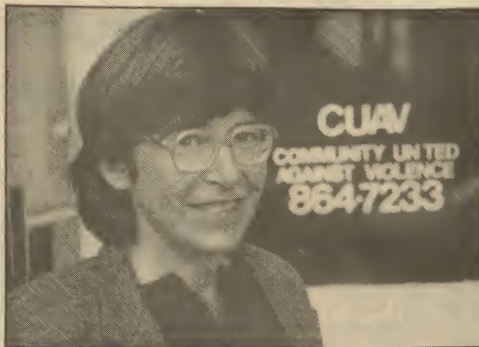
Gay City/Gay Paper
Bay Area Reporter

By mutual agreement between the CUAV board and Mesch, she plans to seek different employment, having expressed a desire toward "exploring other long-time vocational interests."

Jean Harris, president of the board, told Bay Area Reporter that there were some internal problems in CUAV with both sides. "It just wasn't working for her or the agency," said Harris, "so it was agreed upon that the board ask for her resignation so she can look for another job, with a good recommendation from CUAV."

Mesch will spend her final month at CUAV finishing up projects, chiefly the writing of grants for funding.

CUAV will soon be in the pro-



Beverly Mesch.

(Photo: S. Martin)

cess of taking résumés from the community to fill the position. "We are looking for someone who knows the community and political factions extremely well and can bring in more money for the agency."

A personnel advisory committee, made up of three board members and three staff workers, is currently rewriting the job description of the executive director. Experience in fundraising will be emphasized.

Mesch had worked at a battered women's shelter for a number of years in Hawaii, and, accord-

ing to Harris, CUAV has opened up a number of new options for her, introducing her to the community and its political players.

Mesch was in Florida and was unavailable for comment at the time B.A.R. went to press.

Harris has assured that this change in leadership will in no way interfere with the smooth operation of the agency, considering the many other changes that have occurred at CUAV lately. The agency just received state funding for a gay domestic violence program and will begin going after more city and state

money for its ongoing programs.

CUAV is seeking new sources of funding to expand its successful speakers bureau. The organization also wants to closely monitor the rising statistics of anti-gay violence to prepare a policy statement.

CUAV is meeting with the Domestic Violence Consortium to discuss which agencies deal with family domestic violence and which handle gay/lesbian violence.

"It may be that CUAV is the only agency in the city right now that really deals with gay domestic violence," said Harris, "And we'll be looking to expand our program."

Harris said she planned to meet with Donna Medley, the new director of the victims' witness assistance program, in order to talk about beefing up the program. Two all-day retreats are scheduled for the entire board and staff.

"There are some great things that are going to be happening, and we will need a very strong, highly energetic executive director," Harris said. "The staff is so motivated and capable that we must have a director that can really take a handle on the agency and grow with it." ▼

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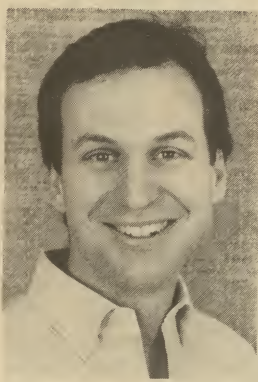
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NGRA Launches Effort To Halt Violent Attacks

New Staff Attorney to Specialize in Assault Cases



Cynthia Goldstein

by Dennis McMillan

National Gay Rights Advocates has launched a new project—the Litigation Project—with plans to initiate lawsuits against perpetrators of attacks on gay and lesbian people, publish a manual for lawyers to help bring civil action against such criminals, and make available a pamphlet for victims of gay-bashing to explain their legal rights and options.

The litigation manual will assist prosecuting attorneys in combating defense lawyers who use such unethical excuses as homosexual panic. This defense strategy attempts to excuse the assailants from legal culpability for their acts of violence against gays, claiming that they were enraged by the gay person's alleged sexual proposition and had a psychotic break to such an extent as to be not responsible for the violence.

In the sometimes tricky process of jury selection by prosecutors, the manual will enable them to eliminate possible homophobia from the jurors.

The manual will also help attorneys bring cases against the attackers to get monetary damages for injuries inflicted on victims.

The pamphlet for victims of bashing will explain in lay terms how the victim can take back some power through legal action. Publications currently available only touch on the psychological and emotional aspects.

As an example, the pamphlet will recommend in which cases it is advisable to sue in civil court or to encourage the district attorney's office to bring criminal charges. It can even help the victims decide whether or not to file a police report or apply for a restraining order against their attackers.

The booklet will strongly exhort victims to report incidents to Community United Against Violence (CUAV) in order to help benefit the entire community. It will encourage the person attacked to thereby push law-enforcement officers to take action and prevent further acts of violence.

The project anticipates publication of the manual and pamphlet in the coming summer months with hopes that, with these written legal aids, the gay community will become more aware and willing to contact them for assistance in dealing with these hate crimes.

They also plan increased participation in litigation against bashers. They will write an amicus (friend of the court) brief in a case presently being appealed in San Francisco Superior Court, in which a judge has disallowed expert testimony using a homosexual panic defense. The brief will support the judge's exclusion.

An important case is being assembled by NGRA against an out-of-state perpetrator of verbal violence. But the details must remain confidential in order to maintain the element of surprise in court.

NGRA will work closely with CUAV, with New York City's gay and lesbian anti-violence project, and with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) in Washington, D.C.

These groups have already begun consulting NGRA on the compilation of the manual, and an upcoming conference, to be held in Dallas in April, will assemble representatives of the anti-violence projects to present a workshop.

According to CUAV's third-quarter statistical analysis for 1988, the total reported assaults in San Francisco increased dramatically by a third from the same quarter last year.

"It's hard to really get a sense of what those figures mean, because more people are reporting than used to," commented Cynthia Goldstein, staff attorney for NGRA and Violence Project director.

Goldstein attributes the rise in anti-gay violence to AIDS phobia and the increased visibility of the gay and lesbian community. She said that even health-care workers treating people with AIDS are being harassed these days.

"The community is angry and fed up," said Goldstein. "Using the legal system and litigation tools as our weapons, we will fight this senseless violence and send these criminals to jail, where they belong."

NGRA believes it will bring anti-gay violence to the attention of the nation and prohibit Congress' continued ignorance of what NGLTF has proven to be the category with the highest incidence of hate crimes.

Although she admits that she may still be in the honeymoon stage of her job, Goldstein greatly enjoys her work, a major step down the pay scale from her former position in the prestigious law firm of McCutcheon, Doyle, Brown and Enerson.

While with McCutcheon, she did *pro bono* work, for which she received two commendations from the Bar Association for assisting the AIDS legal referral panel and the San Francisco Lawyer's Committee.

Several years ago, while attending college in New York, she hosted a public affairs gay radio program and co-chaired the Gay and Lesbian Union, acting as a watchdog for campus activities to assure the gay student population of their rights.

In Boston, as part of the Northeastern University School of Law cooperative education program, she worked with the Women's Law Collective in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Having gotten a taste of San Francisco life during her brief visit here to work in the San Francisco Consumer Union, she chose to return with her law degree from Northeastern in 1986.

"I just fell in love with the city," she said. "It's absolutely a gorgeous place, and the community here felt very different from Boston."

She also appreciated the more open stance the traditional law community in San Francisco takes toward gay issues and, compared to Boston, the relative ease of being openly gay in the workplace.

An active member of the AIDS legal referral panel, Goldstein has successfully challenged an insurance company's denial of disability benefits to a person with AIDS, recovered damages for a man fired from his job for refusing to test for HIV, and drafted many wills and powers of attorney for people with AIDS. ▼

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Home Care Hospice Program Sees Bigger, New Demand for Services

Home Care Alternative Cheaper, Better Than Hospitalization; City, State Funding Operation, But Donations Are Important

by Jay Newquist

The AIDS Home Care and Hospice Program serves about 80 people with AIDS or ARC each day. They serve people who are generally in the final stages of the illness. These clients have usually had a diagnosis for a long time and were once very stable within the gay community. But eventually they require some level of nursing care and social work services on a regular basis.

Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco (VNH) has three hospice programs: Coming Home hospice (residential care for AIDS and non-AIDS patients); traditional hospice (non-AIDS and home-based); and AIDS Home Care and Hospice (home-based).



Jeannee Parker-Martin oversees the home case program for Visiting Nurses. (Photo: S. Savage)

VNH also maintains Home Health Agency Programs that service many people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, including people with AIDS or ARC who are not presently terminal. Some 30 PWAs/PWRCs are included, and there is also a program for mothers with children.

VNH is now operated by Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center.

The backbone of AIDS Home Care and Hospice is the need for attendant care, allowing people to remain at home for personal-care assistance in bathing, toileting, meal preparation, and light housekeeping.

The 200 home volunteers also provide practical support, run errands, and provide bereavement and emotional assistance for the patient as well as for the

entire family. The definition of "family" includes lover, friends, spouse, neighbors, or traditional family members.

"The hospice philosophy is really focused on a family complement," says Jeanne Martin, director of AIDS Home Care and Hospice.

"It's providing an interdisciplinary team approach on every case, using a nurse, social worker, attendant, volunteer, family member, physician, and patient at the center.

"We provide a focus on physical, psycho-social, emotional, and spiritual care of not just the person who is ill, but of the full family. When you think of other AIDS organizations, it's hard sometimes to see what that really means," Martin said.

AIDS Home Care and Hospice had a budget of \$2.7 million in 1987-1988. It projects a budget of \$3.2 million for fiscal 1988-1989 that includes:

- Third-party sources (\$1.6 million), 50 percent.
- City contract (\$1.3 million), 44 percent.
- Private contributions (\$200,000), 6 percent.

Martin explained that the meaning of third-party or traditional sources included Medi-Cal and private insurance. Medi-Cal reimbursement amounted to 60 percent of the total of third-party sources.

The difficulty with third-party reimbursements, Martin said, was AIDS Home Care was never quite sure these reimbursement

would come through. Fundraising is therefore essential.

"It is well-defined in our city proposal, and what we have found over the past few years is that, by the time we increase services over the year, our private contributions usually equal close to 12 percent.

"If we see more individuals this year who have more complex problems, we usually have targeted a higher fundraising goal."

The city contract is based on the average number of hours of attendant care per person, which is actually seven hours per day, two nursing visits per week, one social worker visit per week, and eight hours of volunteer support per week.

There is also nursing support on a 24-hour basis.

Debra Friedland, development

director for AIDS Home Care and Hospice, said many clients are living longer and require more care, especially when there is dementia.

"The more money raised from community sources, the more we can fully meet the needs of someone who requires 10, 15, or 24-hour care, but we're limited to the bare bones contract if we don't raise additional funds," she said.

AIDS Home Care pumps 80 percent of its budget into direct services (nursing, social work, and especially attendant or home health aide care); 12 percent for administration (rent, telephone, etc.); and 8 percent for special projects.

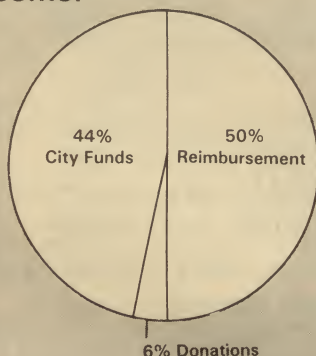
These special projects include foundation sponsorship of a

(Continued on next page)

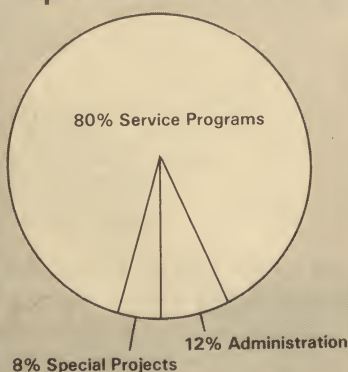


A visiting nurse checks on a client (Photo: S. Savage)

Income:



Expenses



AIDS Home Care and Hospice Program

Budget 1987, \$2.7 million; 1988/9, \$3.2 million
 Staff 90 full-time, 120 part-time
 Volunteers 200
 Clients 450 a year
 Income:
 Third-Party Sources 50 percent
 City Contract 44 percent
 Private Contributions 6 percent
 Services: Attendant at-home nursing and personal care for people with AIDS and ARC.

Another in a Series on AIDS Organizations

(Continued from previous page)

training manual on residential settings, a grant to expand the hospice volunteer program, and a nursing research project on the AIDS Home Care program.

Martin said organizational overhead was difficult to define and services were labor-intensive and staff-oriented because they dealt directly with people. She added, in contrast, that other agencies may have a huge educational effort.

"The nurses are the direct service in our case," she concluded, indicating that salaries were paid from the 80 percent of the budget earmarked for direct services.

AIDS Home Care and Hospice employs 90 full-time employees and 120 part-time or *per diem* workers. A sampling of the salary per year includes:

- Patient services supervisor, \$38,000.
- Registered nurses, \$39,000.
- Social workers, \$34,000.
- Attendants, \$16,000.
- Bereavement coordinator, \$35,000.
- Volunteer coordinator, \$35,000.

The volunteers, who are largely drawn from the gay community, are expected to have contributed 20,000 "client encounters" (one client visit), or more than 178,000 hours of services, this past year.

Martin reported there were another 50,000 client encounters in 1988 by AIDS Home Care staff.

The organization served 200 patients in 1984 (or 18 clients per day) and 450 patients in 1988 (or 80 clients per day).

AIDS Home Care and Hospice has a fundraising goal for 1988-1989 of \$1 million. This amount doesn't include endowment funds or special projects.



One of the programs of VNH is staffing Coming Home Hospice.

(Photo: S. Martin)

Funds raised thus far are \$358,561, including \$222,379 for AIDS Home Care and Hospice and \$136,182 for Coming Home Hospice.

Friedland said the goal for AIDS-related funds was uncertain; but the more money raised, the more services were enhanced.

She envisioned the figure between \$600,000 and \$750,000 for AIDS Home Care and Coming

Home Hospice. Some \$250,000 to \$400,000 was needed for other hospice and home care programs.

The breakdown of the \$750,000 for AIDS services in 1988-1989 included:

- Special events, 25 percent.
- Foundations and corporations, 5 percent.
- United Way donor option, 10 percent.

- Memorial gifts, 20 percent.
- Individual gifts, 40 percent.

An estimate of 23.4 percent maximum and 18.8 percent minimum of the \$3.2 million budget for AIDS in 1989-1989 is to be gathered from fundraising.

The AIDS Home Care and Hospice program predicts a 10

percent rise in the budget each year in the next five years. They will rely heavily on third-party reimbursements, as well as private donations and their city contract.

The demand for nursing services to more people with AIDS, as well as the demand for more intensive services by AIDS Home Care and Hospice, is expected to continue to rise. ▼

Review

(Continued from page 1)

APRIL: GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

The Names Project Quilt began its epic journey across the U.S. as 3,500 panels left San Francisco for visits to 20 cities, starting with Los Angeles. The Quilt was on the road until August and raised funds and consciousness for local services.

★ ★ ★

Attempts by the Gang of Five to unseat Willie Brown, speaker of the California Assembly, stalled the progress on 142 AIDS-related bills in the Legislature. The dispute had nothing to do with AIDS. The Gang of Five were dissident Democrats who rebelled against the powerful speaker and denied him the majority he needed to get legislation passed.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission announced in April that it would investigate the Shanti Project for complaints regarding its hiring and promotions policies. Shanti said it would cooperate fully with the investigation and that it had many minority and women staff.

★ ★ ★

A new gay and lesbian national quarterly debuted on newsstands across the U.S. *Outlook* finally made it into print after its initial printer pulled out of the deal because he thought the mag too risqué.

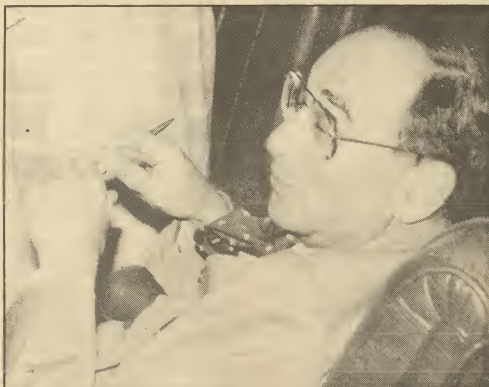
★ ★ ★

Senator Quentin Kopp's gay advisory board threatened to walk out on the senator because he was a sponsor of a ballot initiative rescinding a resolution by the city's Board of Supervisors opposing the 1996 Olympics.



The 1988 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)



Quentin Kopp.

(Photo: Rink)

The board had stated that the Olympics would not be welcome in San Francisco unless they changed their policy and allowed the use of the word "olympics" by the organizers of the Gay Games. Kopp, a promoter of the Olympics, had not consulted with his gay advisors before taking his stand. The group called the ballot initiative a "referendum" on gay rights in San Francisco.

★ ★ ★

Roberta Achtenberg lost her bid to become the first lesbian member of the California Assembly. In a special election April 5 for the 16th District, she scored a strong 36 percent of the vote, but John Burton took it with 52

percent.

★ ★ ★

One of the more promising treatments for AIDS became more available, but warnings of the drug's toxicity were also made public. The California Department of Health lowered the income standard for eligibility for publicly subsidized AZT to allow more people to qualify for federal funds. But doctors also warned that not just anyone should start taking the drug due to its possibly severe side-effects.

★ ★ ★

Two months before the late June extravaganza known as the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day

Parade, city officials notified the Parade Committee that the usual route up Market Street would not be possible this year due to street repairs. A new route was planned out, starting from the Castro area and heading down Market to the Civic Center celebration site.

★ ★ ★

After disputes with its landlord could not be resolved, a Superior Court judge ordered the elegant Comstock Club out of its lavish premises on Sutter Street. Members were shocked to learn about the closing. Comstock owners claimed that the building required much more renovation work to

(Continued on page 20)

DEATHS

Joseph Fairchild Beam

The gay community lost one of its leading activists on Dec. 27 with the death in Philadelphia of Joseph Fairchild Beam. The exact cause of his death was not immediately clear. Friends said, however, that he had been in ill health recently and had been extremely depressed for several months.

For many years, Beam had worked to create a stronger movement of black lesbians and gay men. He was the first editor of *Black/Out*, a magazine serving that community, and served as three years on the board of directors of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays.

In 1985, Beam began work on a collection of writings and artwork by black gay men. It was published 18 months later, under the title *In the Life*. Although a number of works had already been published by and about black lesbians,

Beam's was the first anthology ever to focus on the experiences of black gay men.

Essex Hemphill, a member of NCBLG and a contributor to *In the Life*, also spoke of the inspiration that Beam had provided: "The work that Joe did in the community as a whole—gay and lesbian, black and white—enriched the community in ways that have yet to manifest themselves. His life was a light for many of us. His book opened up an important dialogue among black gay men, and made us aware of the number of us out here."

At the time of his death, Beam was compiling material for a second collection *Brother to Brother*, according to his publisher, Sasha Alyson. "Joe already had made a great deal of progress on that book, and his parents were highly supportive of what he was doing. We still expect to publish it."

A Joseph Beam Memorial Scholarship Fund for creative writing has been established at Temple University. Interested parties may contact it in care of Marie Inyang, Esq., 12 S. Twelfth St., PSFS Building, Philadelphia, PA 19107. ▼

James Thomas Moore, Jr.

Oct. 20, 1942-Nov. 7, 1988

Tom was born in Birmingham, AL. He attended Shades Valley High School, graduating as a member of the National Honor Society.



He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University, and had a fellowship to Cornell University, graduating Ph.D. in biochemistry. He moved to California in 1967.

Tom worked for a number of years in biochemical research for some outstanding organizations in the Bay Area, including Stanford University Medical School, NASA Ames Research Center, and Alza Corporation.

Tom was a terrific gourmet chef. He had a wonderful appreciation for all the arts, especially opera. He had an impressive collection of records, including all the great conductors and singers of the 20th century, and enjoyed dressing for the opera and attending a grand production.

Tom loved animals. He had five cats and a dog, Cricket. (He's probably taking Cricket for a walk right now!)

He loved dancing as well, and he called himself "Twinkletoes of Trocadero." His reminiscences of those nights are a joy to remember, for Tom loved life, and all those who were a part of his life.

A man of gentle manners, Tom left this world a better place for having lived in it. Everyone he touched will remember him for his courtesy, his courage in defying the AIDS virus, and for what he brought to all of us.

In the last days of his life Tom returned home to be with his mother, Catherine R. Moore, and his brother, Robert L. Moore, and family.

Tom is survived by his loving family in Alabama, his loving friends in San Francisco, and the man he shared many happy years with, Jim. We are never the same after losing Tom, and infinitely better for having known him.

Tom is our friend.

Memorial remembrances, at his family's request, can be sent in Tom's name to: Shades Mtn. Christian School Scholarship Fund, 2281 Old Tyler Road, Hoover, Alabama 35226. ▼

John Patrick Effing

Aug. 9, 1952-Jan. 1, 1989

John Patrick Effing died Jan. 1 after a year-long struggle with AIDS. He was lovingly supported by his family of friends until the end. We will always miss his generosity, humor, and love.



Donations may be made in John's name to any AIDS charity. ▼

James E. Parsons

On Dec. 30, James E. "Jimmy" Parsons succumbed to AIDS. With him at Kaiser Hospital was his lover of 14 years, Larry, his close and good friend, Gwyn, and his wonderful Hospice worker, David.

He is also survived by his mother Diana, a brother David, and an Uncle "Butchie," all living in Grand Haven, Michigan.

James had a brightness which lightened all occasions. He was warm and generous to his many friends. He was very proud of his 13 years clean and sober in Narcotics Anonymous. He was a student of Da Free John, and worked at the St. Francis Hotel where he was one of the top waiters for many years.

His life was filled with fun and beauty. Once you were his friend, you were his friend forever.

He fought against AIDS for over two years, and in the end had the strength to fight any longer. After six months of pain and failing health, his death was blessedly painless.

Jimmy often said of friends who went before him, "It's finally over for him, his suffering is done." It is now sadly true for James and I miss him.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21, at the MCC Church, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco. Any donations should be made in Jimmy's name to Open Hand. ▼

Franklin P. West

June 11, 1942-Jan. 2, 1989

The New Year started on a sad note with the passing of our dear friend, Frank West. He succumbed after a hard-fought, one-year battle with Kaposi's sarcoma.



Frank was a vice president at Bank of America telecommunications and a San Francisco resident since 1976. He was born in Millen, Georgia, was graduated with honors at Stetson University. He had a distinguished career in both teaching and business.

Frank's spirit will be cherished and carried forward by all fortunate to have known him. He was laid to rest by his surviving mother in Millen, Georgia.

We will miss you most dearly, our beloved friend. ▼

Steven Wittman

Steven Wittman passed away from AIDS-related pneumonia on Nov. 29, 1988 in Los Angeles. Steven was known by many people for his quick "witty" tongue and his famous, unique laugh. He could get an entire room laughing in no time at all.



Steven was born in Denver on March 3, 1949.

His father was an "Army-lifer" and Steven joined the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam war. However, shortly after joining felt the war was absurd and went to Sweden. In Sweden, Steven got a small business going, a large villa and a buddy. Steven did well in Sweden but got homesick for the States and returned home.

During the next two decades, Steven travelled extensively throughout the country working in 5-star restaurants from Ft. Lauderdale to Palm Springs. He also worked in hotels and tending bar from Houston, Baltimore, Denver, Los Angeles, Hawaii and Canada and other cities. Prior to his illness, Steven was self-employed in a cleaning business serving the Los Angeles area.

Steven leaves behind a brother and sister in Denver—David and Diane Apperson. His close friend Brian Ginn lives in Los Angeles and recent partner Terry Fredericks in Vancouver. He also leaves behind many friends from the "Blue Parrot" days and the Eagle. Steve's family is holding a memorial service for Steven and requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to an AIDS charity of your choice. ▼

Michael Symonds

Michael E. Symonds, Ph.D., died in Berkeley on Dec. 30 of an AIDS-related condition. He was the dearly beloved son of Barbara and Howard Symonds; brother of Glen and Sean; grandson of Elma Sandridge; aged 39.

A well known clinical psychologist and psychic, he was the editor of many technical works and noted for his advocacy of the rights of people with AIDS. Winner of the volunteer of the year award from J.C. Penny, he worked with the AIDS Project of the East Bay, The Center, EBARO, and Fairmont Hospital in setting up the AIDS ward, the Alameda County AIDS Task Force. He co-facilitated numerous support groups for and with PWAs. He worked for the establishment of the AIDS clinic at Alta Bates Hospital. He especially was a teacher, role model and friend of many PWAs and care givers.

A memorial will be held Sunday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m. at 751 San Diego Road, Berkeley for family and friends. Contributions in his memory to The Center, 3421 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland 94609 are preferred. ▼

Michael C. Watson

Sept. 23, 1954-Dec. 30, 1988

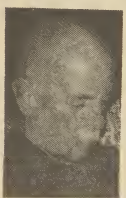
Michael was spiritually prepared for the end of his earthly life which occurred in New York. He had spent the last several years there as a successful businessman wholesaling women's fashions.

He will be missed by his friends in San Francisco. ▼

Larry Homan

March 11, 1939-Dec. 14, 1988

Larry passed on to the next step on Dec. 14, 1988, of complications from AIDS at the V.A. Hospital in Reno, NV.



He had moved to So. Lake Tahoe two years ago to be with his close friend and companion Michael. Born in N.Y., Larry was a long-time resident of San Francisco, moving here on his discharge from the armed

services. He was employed by Emporium-Capwell for most of those years.

Larry will be remembered for many things, among them are his smile and easy going manner, his ability to traverse the city in minutes, his frequent phone calls, if just to say hello, and his "I can help attitude."

Larry was cremated and interred at South Lake Tahoe on Dec. 20, 1988. Larry is lovingly missed by his many friends and co-workers.

So let's toast Larry, and be proud he touched our lives and allowed us to be a part of his. There will be a gathering of his friends on Jan. 14, 1 p.m. at 3955 17th Street, #7, San Francisco, or call 552-4809.

Contributions in the name of Larry Homan should be made to South Lake Tahoe Bi-State AIDS Task Force, P.O. Box 17211, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706.

Larry, we miss you and love you. ▼

Roger Wallis Farris

May 7, 1949-Dec. 31, 1988

Roger died peacefully on Dec. 31 after a two-year struggle with AIDS. His father Claude and mother Hazel were with him at the end.



He is also survived by his sister Elsie, brothers Claude and Gordon, and their families, as well as a countless number of friends.

Roger, born in Long Beach, California, resided in San Francisco for the past ten years.

Roger graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School, did two years at Long Beach Jr. College, then two years at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

After a short time at Roos Atkins, Roger chose the service profession. He will be remembered by all for the good times he made for us all.

Roger, you meant so much to us, Grant and Lupe.

Roger was cared for during his final weeks by good friends Judy, Candy, Ron, Andrew, and Willy.

Roger, you and I have shared so many good years together, short and long trips, countless memories of good times.

I'm going to miss you. The wonderful support group of all the friends that you and I have met has made my loss bearable.

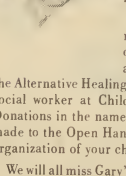
I love you Darlin' Willy.

A gathering will be held on Jan. 15, between 1 and 6. Please call 285-4680 for more information. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Project Open Hand or the Visiting Nurses Association. ▼

Gary Drew Flynn

April 26, 1955-Jan. 5, 1988

Gary passed away Jan. 5 after a courageous battle against AIDS. Gary maintained his humor and wit throughout his struggle over the last years. With him were his mother, June Flynn, and friends as he passed peacefully.



Gary devoted much of his time over the last year as a volunteer for the Alternative Healing Project and as a social worker at Children's Hospital. Donations in the name of Gary may be made to the Open Hand Project or the organization of your choice.

We will all miss Gary's smile, love and wonderful disposition. ▼

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DEATHS

Patrick Winston 1952-1988

Patrick died on Dec. 13 after a year-long battle with an incurable cancer, but he remained an incurable optimist until the end.



His distinctive brand of optimism was not a product of innocence; it was all about love. On the rare occasion when he'd have anything negative to say, he'd say it with bewilderment, as though the truly didn't understand why there had to be unhappiness in the world. Well, there's a lot of it. And now, with Patrick gone, there's more.

Patrick was a stubborn man—when he made up his mind it stayed made up. He didn't care about money or fashion; he cared about music, travel, politics, and friends—the ones he knew and the ones he didn't. He had a lot to be proud of, too, particularly his six-year union with Joe Torres, his work for the AIDS Foundation, and his arrest at the Supreme Court after the 1987 March on Washington.

Patrick died as beautifully as he lived, with the same quiet spirit, integrity, awareness, and positive action he brought to everything he did. He fought his last year through unendurable pain and crushing hopelessness. He was an inspiration.

His death put an end to Patrick's suffering but it leaves an empty space in the lives of the many of us who loved him. Now we miss him. ▼

Christopher Essley April 8, 1955-Dec. 10, 1988

Christopher passed on after a tremendous struggle of eight months with AIDS-related illnesses. Sadness marks the passing of a dear friend; gladness marks the knowing of Chris. His mirth and passion are his legacy; his courage, our strength.



Christopher is survived by his parents and best friends Gerald and Eleanor Essley of Newport Beach, CA.

While residing in San Francisco, Chris pursued a career in the travel and hotel industry, employed by TWA and the St. Francis Hotel.

Chris said many times through his illness, "I'm not going until the fat lady sings" and "I'm not quite ready for that final round of *Jeopardy* in the sky."

Always known for his fondness of the royal "we," we wave farewell.

A memorial is planned for Saturday, Jan. 14, at Grace Cathedral, Chapel of the Nativity, at 1:30 p.m. ▼

Nicholas David Reigh Dec. 23, 1956-Dec. 26, 1988

Nicholas had no fear of death. His passage was one of great beauty and inspiration to those present and there was much love and spiritual presence around him when he died on Dec. 26.



Nick was a writer, actor, story teller, bicycle messenger, collector of rock music and astrologer. He entered San Francisco State in 1986 majoring in film and writing and made the dean's list after one semester. During the second semester he was diagnosed with AIDS and after a courageous struggle restored himself enough to continue writing.

His friends, classmates and teachers have decided to establish the Annual Nicholas Reigh Gay-Lesbian Writers Award. It was universally acknowledged that Nicholas would have become a superb novelist and short story writer.

The *Diary of a Werewolf Named: Coyote* (his journal of one year as a bicycle messenger) is being prepared for publication along with other essays and stories.

The Annual Nicholas Reigh Gay-Lesbian Writing Award is accepting donations. Please send contributions care of S.F. State English Department, Steve Arkin, 1600 Holloway Ave., S.F., CA 94132. ▼

Thomas H. Wylie July 18, 1925-Dec. 27, 1988

Tom passed away in the early morning of Dec. 27 at Oak Knoll Hospital in Oakland. He had been fighting a courageous battle with cancer for some time, but finally succumbed.



Just a few weeks before his passing, Tom had celebrated Christmas at home with his friends and club brothers, the Constantines. Tom had been a member of the Constantines for 20 years and had become an emeritus member of the club.

He was well known among the members of the San Francisco motorcycle clubs to whom he had contributed much time and devotion over the years, and at the time of his passing he was on the board of the Inter-Club Fund. Tom's years of service to the bike community had also been recognized by the bike clubs of Southern California, when many years ago he had been honored by the Blue Max MC of Los Angeles as an Honorary Kaiser of the Blue Max.

A funeral service was held at the Chapel of the Chimes Mortuary in Hayward, and was attended by his friends and club brothers. There followed an interment service at the Chapel of the Chimes Memorial Park.

Tom will be greatly missed by his club, and his community for his experience, guidance and his love of the bike community. Good Riding, Tom. ▼

Dennis Milliken

Dennis died of AIDS at 3 a.m. on Dec. 30. He was a native of Washington, PA. He came to Petaluma in 1963. Dennis worked for the Doctors Business Bureau in San Francisco at the time of his death. He was 36.

Active in local politics, Dennis sought election to the Petaluma City Council in 1986. He was a board member of Petaluma Citizens Ban on Utility Tax.

Dennis also served on the Veterans CARE, a gay veterans group in Northern California.

Private inurnment was at Cypress Hill Memorial Park in Petaluma.

Donations in memory of Dennis may be made to Face to Face, Sonoma County AIDS Network.

We all will miss you, Dennis! ▼

Irv Riddle

Irv Riddle passed away at his home in Dallas in the evening of Jan. 2. He surrendered his body in peace after a valiant struggle of three years with AIDS.



He was a man who lived his life in the spirit of the city he loved, San Francisco.

His lust for life, opening doors of opportunities to love, and devotion to those who responded will not easily leave those he touched. We will consider ourselves eternally in debt and endlessly grateful. ▼

Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, Bay Area Reporter has been forced to change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m. ▼

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Home Care To Be Covered By New Medi-Cal Program

State Allots \$9 Million for 700 Cases in '89

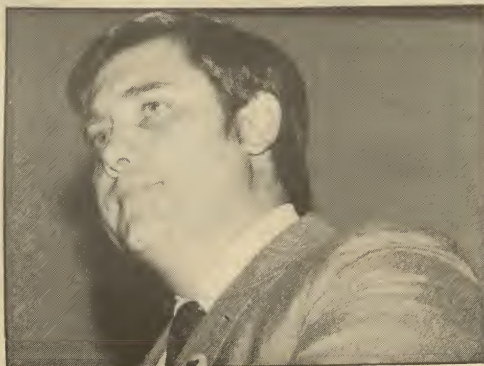
by Jay Newquist

A new state program will permit many people with AIDS or ARC to receive home care services through Medi-Cal for the next three years. State Health Director Dr. Kenneth Kizer said the AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program would provide eligible persons with case management services and necessary home health services from local providers in the home setting, instead of in a hospital.

These services will be provided in addition to any services already authorized under California's regular Medi-Cal program. AIDS patients would specifically receive at-home skilled nursing, psycho-social counseling, attendant care, homemaker services, minor home adaptations, and a foster-child supplement.

AIDS/ARC patients must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the program. They must have an AIDS/ARC diagnosis, be Medi-Cal eligible, be discharged from the hospital into the program, be at least at the intermediate facility level of care, and meet service cost-effectiveness criteria.

Thelma Frazier, chief of the state Office of AIDS, predicted 788 people with AIDS or ARC would be served in 1989, 963 in 1990, and 1,138 in 1991. The cost



Dr. Kenneth Kizer.

(Photo: Rink)

of the waiver program has been factored into the state Medi-Cal budget at \$9 million in 1989, \$12.9 million in 1990, and \$16.5 million in 1991.

Frazier said the waiver program was crucial because there weren't enough hospital beds to go around. She said that not only would the program save money by keeping people at home, but it also would provide a degree of independence for people with AIDS and ARC if they could remain at home.

Frazier said the allotment per month per patient in the program was approximately \$1,293. The waiver program is funded through an equal share from the federal

and state governments.

A similar program for people with AIDS and ARC is in place in New Jersey and New Mexico, she added.

Kizer said that one of the benefits of the program is that the providers who are most knowledgeable about the needs and resources of people with AIDS will be responsible for providing case management and coordination of needed services.

"We're excited about the opportunities this new program will provide in meeting the home health-care needs of persons with AIDS/ARC in both a humane and cost-effective manner," Kizer said. ▼

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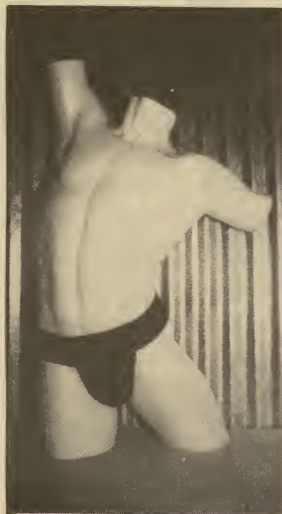
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The March on Sacramento.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

Review

(Continued from page 17)

bring it up to code and that the previous owners knew about the problems.

★ ★ ★

Kellogg cereal company promised to review an ad for its Nut 'n Honey cereal that critics said promoted violence against gay people. One ad featured an old trail cook responding to a gang of cowboys that "nut 'n Honey" was for breakfast.

★ ★ ★

Roberta Achtenberg announced that she had reconsidered and would not run against John Burton again in June for the 16th. Assembly District seat even though she pulled in a sizeable vote in the special election.

★ ★ ★

A Santa Barbara Superior Court judge ruled that California law prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped applies to people with AIDS. The decision allowed the state Fair Employment and Housing Commission to enforce discrimination provisions against employers who mistreat able-bodied people with the illness.

★ ★ ★

The United Farm Workers union appointed openly gay labor activist Howard Wallace to its national staff.

★ ★ ★

The U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive AIDS bill authored by

Sen. Edward Kennedy to streamline research and appropriate funds for education and treatment. But the package came with a proviso by Sen. Jesse Helms blocked any federal funds going to education materials that depict any gay safe sex acts. Sen. Alan Cranston of California vigorously opposed Helms' maneuver this year after voting for it last year.

★ ★ ★

The Barbary Coast Boating Club was denied membership in the Pacific Interclub Yachting Association because most of the club's 140 members are gay or lesbian. Though PIYA members had individually endorsed BCBC's application, the governing board voted in secret to not allow them in.

★ ★ ★

The Christian Science Monitor and its subsidiary MonitoRadio unveiled a new employment policy. But still not included were gay and lesbian staff.

MAY: GOING GREEK

Police estimated that 6,000 people marched through the rain in Sacramento to demand action on AIDS legislation and other gay and lesbian rights concerns. Jesse Jackson electrified the crowd, which march organizers pegged at 22,000. Jackson urged people not to just complain but to get out and vote in this year's presidential election.

★ ★ ★

Faced with a whopping \$180 million dollar budget deficit from the Feinstein administration, Mayor Art Agnos unveiled a plan that made cuts in city services but

left AIDS services largely untouched. City AIDS spending was kept at \$10 million in local general fund revenues. No increase in funds was provided even though the caseload continued to climb. It was hoped that state and federal funds would replace some city money to maintain services.

★ ★ ★

Clifford St. Joseph, 46, was sentenced to 34 years to life in prison for his part in the so-called satanic cult killing of another gay man. Superior Court Judge Alfred C. Chiantelli said that the crime "would astonish the imaginations of Edgar Allan Poe or the Marquis de Sade."

★ ★ ★

A U.S. District Court judge threw out a lawsuit by National Gay Rights Advocates that would have hastened the release of medications for people with AIDS. The court said that it was not the proper place for this dispute. NGRA was told to take its complaint to the FDA. That overlooked one fact: the reason that NGRA took the matter to court is that they could get no action from FDA which did not even have defined procedures to handle such a complaint. The suit alleged that certain drug manufacturers had received exclusive licenses after contributed funds to federal agencies for research.

★ ★ ★

Sunny skies helped the fourth annual AIDS Bike-A-Thon raise over \$300,000 for 15 Bay Area service agencies. Over 1,400 cyclists took part in the day-long challenge ride.

(Continued on next page)



The now-defunct Comstock Club.

(Photo: Steve Savage)



The unveiling of the Harvey Milk Mural at Duboce Park.
(Photo: Rink)

Review

(Continued from previous page)

★ ★ ★

Lambda Delta Lambda, a lesbian sorority, opened a chapter at San Francisco State University. It was the second chapter for the new lesbian group.

★ ★ ★

Harvey Milk's 58th birthday was celebrated May 21 with the unveiling of a 2,000 square foot mural in Duboce Park. The colorful mural was designed and painted by artist Johanna Poethig.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration cracked down on certain alternative treatments for AIDS when agents raided and seized warehouse supplies of an egg product believed to help slow the disease. The FDA was also investigating imports of dextran sulfate and other substances not authorized for U.S. distribution.

★ ★ ★

JUNE: SURPRISES

The San Francisco Department of Public Health withheld \$1.26 million in funding for the Shanti Project pending resolution of charges against the project's director. The city Health Commission voted unanimously to finance Shanti only through September while the Human Rights Commission investigated the agency on charges of employment discrimination. The funds represented one-third of Shanti's total budget.

★ ★ ★

A man who stabbed an East Coast college student to death on a South of Market street corner in July 1987 after calling him a "fagot" and "fruit" was found guilty of second degree murder. Pablo Imeri, 21, faces 16 years to life in prison. His victim was not gay.

★ ★ ★

Stanford University evicted a student from a campus dormitory for verbally assaulting a gay dorm manager with homophobic epithets. Freshman Kenneth Ehrman had been warned earlier about his behavior. The eviction set off a small protest on campus, but university officials did not relent.

★ ★ ★

Admiral James D. Watkins, head of Pres. Reagan's Commission on the HIV Epidemic, released a report that was immediately hailed as comprehensive in guiding the nation's response to the AIDS health crisis. Watkins took issue with Reagan administration policy on a number of points such as recommending civil rights protections for those with the illness. He also proposed raising federal spending on AIDS to at least \$3 billion annually. The lengthy report tackled the epidemic in all its facets.

★ ★ ★

Prop. 69, the second attempt by Lyndon LaRouche's followers to impose mandatory AIDS testing

on California, went down to defeat at the polls June 7 by a 68-32 margin.

★ ★ ★

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals announced that it would reconsider an earlier ruling on Sgt. Perry Watkins. A panel of 11 judges would re-hear the entire case and make a new ruling. Meanwhile, the first ruling by a panel of three circuit judges was suspended. That ruling had made it illegal for the military to automatically toss out gay and lesbian personnel.

★ ★ ★

One of the city's oldest and most famous lesbian bars, Peg's



The Quilt at Moscone, December 1988.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Place, closed on June 27 after it lost its lease. The bar had been on Geary Boulevard for over a decade.

★ ★ ★

On the eve of the Freedom Day Parade, Leonard Matlovich died of AIDS on June 22. Matlovich had become a prominent gay rights activist after he was discharged from the U.S. Air

Force in 1975. He had voluntarily come out to his commanding officer to act as a test case for the rights of gays in the military. He eventually settled his lawsuit against the Air Force for \$160,000.

★ ★ ★

A bright, warm, sunny day drew an estimated 275,000 people to march in and watch the 19th. Les-

bian and Gay Freedom Day Parade. The festivities began on Castro Street this year and wound up in the traditional Civic Center rally. Biggest applause went to Sylvester in tribute to him as he lead the people with AIDS contingent in the parade. ▼

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Next Week

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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Appeals Court Delays Security Clearance Trial

3-Judge Panel May Send Case Back for Retrial

by Dennis McMillan

On Dec. 16, the highly controversial, long, drawn-out *High Tech Gays* lawsuit was heard by a panel of federal appeals judges, but there is still no decision and may not be one for over a year. The case concerns the issuance of security clearances to gays and lesbians.

The judges present were two Reagan appointees and a very conservative Democrat. It was recommended that the case be sent back to Federal District Judge Thelton Henderson, who originally heard the case and had ruled in favor of the gays.

According to the attorney for the gay group, Richard Gayer, the defendants reshaped their same argument against granting security clearances to gays, fearing that once gay people are privy to top-secret information, they could easily fall prey to blackmailers who would threaten to "expose" their homosexuality.

When it was pointed out that most of these gays are out of the closet, the government lawyers extended their argument to "openly gay people with close relationships who may be in the closet and subject to indirect blackmail."

Even though the government

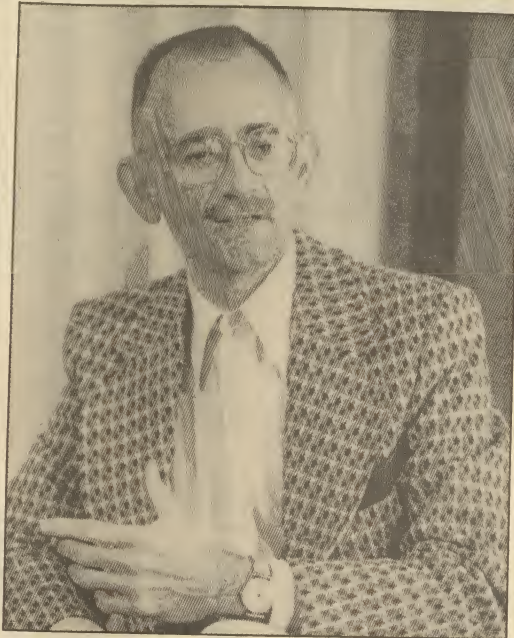
admits there has been no recorded case of a gay person or anyone involved in a gay relationship being blackmailed in exchange for secrets, they are still hesitant to grant clearances to homosexuals.

Gayer commented that, to take this argument to its extreme, straight people also have gay friends and would just as readily be vulnerable to indirect blackmail.

Another plank that the government has added to their platform against gays in high-tech jobs is their reasoning that, in those applicable states where gays violate the sodomy statutes in their homes, they are likely to be untrustworthy on the job site, as well.

The original case, arguing for security clearance rights for gay men and lesbians in government jobs, began in 1984 in the District Court. The case did not receive a judgment until 1987, ruling it illegal to single out gay people in the granting of clearances.

Now the Defense Department has gone to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, attempting to overthrow the decision. Should the court rule in favor of *High Tech Gays*, a landmark precedent would be established in equal rights protection for gay men and lesbians concerning the sensitive



Richard Gayer

(Photo: Rink)

matter of security clearance for classified information and government secrets.

"This would be a real milestone for gay people, and the government is very worried," said Gayer. "The Defense Department wants to preserve their absolute power to give our security clearances as they please."

Gayer predicted that the judges will eventually send the case back to Henderson for trial. "That would get them off the hook so they wouldn't have to make any pro-gay pronouncements," explained Gayer. "They're not go-

ing to go out on a limb for any minority, especially gays."

Should this occur, Henderson would most likely rule in favor of the gays, and the government would appeal again, continuing the ongoing cycle.

Gayer said that the whole process could take a long time despite Henderson's favorable ruling for gays. Henderson granted a stay, postponing any actual effect from his decisions until all the appeals are over.

"This means gay people so far have got nothing but a nice piece of paper," Gayer commented. "So as long as the government does not lose, the case will drag on for years, and it will be business as usual."

Gayer said that it is highly probable that a decision will not be made until the even more controversial *Perry Watkins vs. U.S. Army* case is decided.

For this reason, Gayer's next step is to contact the attorneys for the government, requesting the case be sent immediately to Henderson's courtroom in an attempt to expedite matters. While he is not anticipating an abundance of governmental cooperation, Gayer said he is nonetheless hopeful.

After certifying that gay people constitute a class, Judge Henderson issued the following injunction in August 1987: "Defendants are enjoined from subjecting plaintiffs to expanded investigations, mandatory adjudications, or any other procedures based on plaintiffs' sexual orientation, homosexual activity, or membership in a gay organization."

He added that gays are a "quasi-suspect" class under equal protection theory. In October 1987, he explained that the Defense Department remains free to investigate everyone's sexuality in depth, so long as it did not single out gays as a class for such treatment, and stayed the above injunction pending the outcome of the Defense Department's present appeal to the Ninth Circuit. ▼

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Carrying on That Winning Tradition

PROMENADE COTERIE CONCLAVE (A Calliope Nose?)

Everybody loves a parade. Everybody in the old home town loves a parade, especially when several of their entries have won accolades, honors, and commendations.

Keeping up with the "winning tradition," the Oakland Parade Contingent has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., at Town & Country. All interested individuals are requested to attend this meeting with ideas, energies, and commitments.

I understand that Richard H. has volunteered again to design this year's float, and Terry and Marge will put forth all their vim and vigor.

COUNTERPANE BENIGNANCY (An Eiderdown Nose?)

The AIDS Quilt may no longer be on display in San Francisco, but it most certainly isn't forgotten in Oakland. The Bench & Bar is presenting a benefit for the Quilt on Sunday, Jan. 22, starting at 9 p.m.

For those of you who have not seen any of the actual panels, there will be examples of some of the 6,000 on display. (I certainly wouldn't have wanted the job of deciding just which samples to select.)

There will be a donation/cover charge. For that proffering, however, there will be a *fantastic* male stripper, the B&B's usual Sunday lineup of female impersonators doing their renditions, plus—according to Bobby McM.—very special guest stars. These just might be some of the top-notch cabaret circuit entertainers. You'll just have to attend to find out.

Some KS May Be Cat-Scratch Fever, UC Study Claims

Serious skin lesions in seven people with AIDS were caused by "cat-scratch disease" bacterium and not the skin cancer doctors first assumed, UC-San Francisco researchers have found.

The patients from New York and San Francisco were initially diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma, but laboratory research led by UCSF pathology and dermatology experts found clusters of bacteria matching those for cat-scratch disease.

The only two patients still living when the UCSF tests were completed recalled being scratched by cats in the weeks before the lesions appeared.

Cat-scratch disease is harmless to healthy people, who usually suffer no more than a minor scar or infection at the scratch site and flu-like symptoms. Most do not suffer any symptoms, but for those who do, antibiotics usually lead to a quick and full recovery.

In AIDS patients, who lose their ability to fight off infections, cat-scratch disease if not

DIADEM BIJOU CREPUSCULE (An Appreciated Nose?)

Emperor X Tim and Empress X Fina, and the Court of Fire and Ice, invite all to attend *A Night of Crown and Jewels*. This night will be dedicated to past and present monarchs in appreciation for their hard work and love that they continue to give.

The festivities will be Saturday, Feb. 11, Lake Merritt Hotel Terrace Room, Oakland. The admission is \$10 donation to ISE's general fund.

The doors will open at 6 p.m., and the presentation of the Ten Dynasties of the Imperial Star Empire will commence (and I quote directly from the press release), "promptly at 7 p.m." Visiting imperial monarchs, past and present, will follow this presentation. Protocol and tapes will be accepted between 6 and 7 p.m. in the lobby of the hotel by ISE Chairperson Princess Royale Timmi.

With the utmost respect to all imperial empires, only past and present Monarchs will be asked to perform.

If you have any questions, or if more information is needed, contact Imperial Crown Prince Hank (276-6805) or Imperial Prince Ralph (276-1725).

Trashy Trish came through her recent surgery with flying colors. She is expected to be at home by the time you read this (with much relief to spouse Cheryl!). Forget about those tattooed eyeliners. Trish is now embellished with a permanent midriff belt!

Some time back I made mention that Val S. had undergone minor surgery. She asked me if I went into the hospital and had my balls cut off, would I call *that* minor surgery? Hell, it's been so long that they've been used, it

treated could add yet another serious complication to an already difficult disease, said Philip LeBoit, UCSF assistant clinical professor of pathology and dermatology.

In the UCSF study—led by LeBoit and reported in the April 30 issue of *Lancet*, a British medical journal—six of the seven patients studied were prescribed antibiotics, and the lesions cleared. The antibiotics, however, did not alter the course of AIDS. The seventh patient had the lesions surgically removed.

LeBoit suggested that some lesions in AIDS patients have been misdiagnosed as Kaposi's sarcoma when perhaps they were easily treatable.

Physicians also should ask AIDS patients with unexplained lesions if they have a history of cat scratches, said LeBoit. ●



Debbie Grossberg from ACT-UP/SF distributing toys at the Center, a spiritual center for people with AIDS and their providers.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

could be called a "small potatoes" operation.

A group in excess of 15 showed up at Foxtail last Sunday. All had expressed some interest in being associated with EBAF. Much primacy was shown, but the proof of the pudding will occur at the regular EBAF meeting on Monday, Jan. 16, Fairmont Hospital.

There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that several hundred cockroaches were picketing on the sidewalk outside of a recently closed bar, because they were

now homeless. I don't care what Bertha Jean says; it ain't so!

This Sunday will be the auction at Big Mama's for the East Bay Food Pantry for those with AIDS or ARC. I understand that the "customers" will be handling all the action. It starts at 2 p.m. There will be a presentation to Ed Paulson for his 20 years of charity work. Plaudits and kudos to Ed, and I hope to see you all there.

No, Little Mother won't be at this event. She had made a previous commitment to do an

auction on the same date, at the New Bell, for Ms Pauline. Way to go, Little M.

How about those Niners! They made venison out of the Bears—28 to 3. Now it's on to Super Bowl XXIII. Strange, but it's actually a repeat of Super Bowl XVI, when the 49ers beat the Bengals. Remember?

The year end report from EBAF states that a total of 88 applications were approved. These approvals represent a whopping total pay-out of \$24,020.84! Now, that's big bucks! ▼



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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 12, 1989 PAGE 24

THIS



James Lefebvre (l.) and Chris Jorie examine a finished panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt in *Remember My Name* by David Lemos. The play will run Wednesdays through Sundays at 8 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., at the Zephyr Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave., through Feb. 19. Tickets are \$8, \$18, and \$20. For more information, call 995-2887.

FRIDAY 13

- Mandy Woods:** The singer-songwriter appears at Sisterspirit Bookstore/Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose. Doors open 8 p.m., concert 8:30 p.m. Sliding scale \$4-\$8.
- Phoebe Snow:** The first meeting of the new year is at 8 p.m. at the Hotel Californian, 405 Taylor, in the Mission Room. Featuring Neil Lang and Rail Down Under and Rails Back Home.
- BACN:** A potluck social is planned for 7:30 p.m. at 158-A Noe St., S.F. Bring food or beverage to share. Call 821-4810.
- Parade Committee:** The Women's Motorcycle Contingent of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade meets at 5 p.m.
- T.G.I.F.:** Presented by Bay Area Career Women on both sides of the bay. Charpe's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 6-9 p.m., and Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Call 495-5393 for more information.
- Club U.K.:** The gay import presented by British by Birth, Rebel by Choice (Caroline Clone and Sanford Kellman), 931 Larkin St., S.F., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5 includes Club U.K. pin. No polyester. Call 752-2697 for more information.
- Club Dub:** Featuring urban R&B/funk dance music, 6th and Harrison streets, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., \$3 cover.
- Modern Music Friday:** With DJ Steve Masters, B Street, 236 B St., San Mateo, 9 p.m., cover.
- Club Infra-Red:** Dancing, Scoter's, 22 4th St., S.F., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., cover. Sound by Randy Schiller. Call 777-0880 for more information.
- Just Rewards:** Features the hottest DJ in Walnut Creek, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5 cover. Call 256-1200 for more information.
- David Kelsey:** Music, D.J.'s, 1535 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek, 9 p.m. Call 930-0300 for more information.
- Sing-Along:** With Frank Banks on the piano, Charpe's Grill, 131 Gough St., Thursday-Sunday, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
- Wally Kum:** Your sing-along host on the piano at the Mint, 1942 Market St., S.F., 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
- Dick Hindman:** Music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8 p.m. Call 431-5266 for more information.

SATURDAY 14

- Parade Committee:** The Women's Motorcycle Contingent of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade meets at 5 p.m. at 1519 Mission. Call 864-FREE.
- Cross-Dressing Club:** The fifth Cotillion Ball of ETVC is from 7 p.m. to midnight at the California Club, 1750 Clay St. A buffet dinner is served. No host bar. Formal attire. Tickets \$15 in advance. Call 664-1499.
- Miss America's Daughter:** A one-woman show featuring Tanya Shaffer is performed at 8 p.m. at the Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St. Tickets are \$5-\$7 sliding scale at door or reservations at 821-0232.

- Leather Smut Night:** A benefit for International Ms Leather, Inc., also includes Mexican buffet at 7 p.m., 31 Ridgewood (Corona's Arena). Tickets \$10 at door. Call 469-8534.
- S.F. Hiking Club:** Hike through Golden Gate Park. Meet at McDonald's at Haight and Stanyan at 10 a.m. — do not go to regular meeting place. Bring lunch and canteen. Rain cancels. Call Jim at 665-5578.
- Men's Mixer:** Men Seeking Relationships mixer is at MCC, 150 Eureka, 7:30-10 p.m. \$5. Sponsored by Partners Institute. Call 343-8541.
- Victoria Theater:** Tippi, Doris Fish, and Miss X highlight the Sluts A-Go-Go Still Alive Revue at 8:30 p.m., 2961 16th St. Tickets at BASS, Ticketmaster, or charge-by-phone at 853-7576.
- Frank Banks:** Sing-along piano, Charpes Grill, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 p.m.
- Church of the Secret Gospel:** Fellowship, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 8 p.m. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- Alanon:** Meeting for people with AIDS/ARC/HIV-positive concerns, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 4:30-6 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.
- Game Night:** For persons living with AIDS/ARC and HIV+, Rest Stop Support Center, 134 Church St., S.F., 7 p.m., free. Call 621-REST for more information.

SUNDAY 15

- Skirts Opens:** The nightclub for women opens from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Club Townsend, 3rd and Townsend.
- Steve Graham:** Speaks about senior housing, 2-4 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin, before the group G 40 Plus.
- A Different Light:** A book party to celebrate the new work by "Douglas Dean" (Dean Goodman), 2-4 p.m., 489 Castro.
- S.F. Frontrunners:** Lake Merced Run. Meet at boat-house on Harding Road at 10 a.m. for a run around Lake Merced.
- San Francisco MCC:** Worship services, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (with childcare and signing for the hearing-impaired) and 7 p.m. Call 863-4434 for more information.
- New Life MCC:** Worship service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 5 p.m. Call 843-9355 for more information.
- Golden Gate MCC:** Worship service, 48 Belcher St., S.F., 12:30 and 7 p.m. Call 621-6300 for details.
- MCC Santa Rosa:** Worship service, 515 Orchard St., 11 a.m. Call (707) 526-HOPE for more information.

MONDAY 16

- Hot Strippers with Champ:** With host and singer Lucy Manhattan. Show at 10 p.m. No cover. Club St. John, San Jose, 170 West St. John St.
- Safe Sex Workshop:** The Buddy Connection, a safe sex workshop for men, meets Jan. 16 at MCC, 150 Eureka St., 7-10 p.m.
- Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** Older gay men's friendship group (60+), Friendship Room, 711 Eddy St., S.F., 2:45 p.m., free. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- Ministry of Light:** Six-session support group for lesbians begins tonight, Room 12, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo, \$10 per session. Call 457-1115 for more information.
- Church of the Secret Gospel:** Buddy night, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 8-11 p.m. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- Hypnotherapy:** Taught by David Ricard for caregivers, Kairos House, 114 Douglass St., S.F., 7-8:30 p.m. Call 861-0877 for more information.
- HIV+ Spiritual Support Group:** Meeting, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F. Call 863-4434 for more information.
- Alanon:** Meeting for people with AIDS/ARC/HIV-positive concerns, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 7:30-9 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.
- Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** Support group for older gay men (60+), Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-9 p.m. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- Country and Western Dance Lessons:** Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Also Tuesday and Thursday.
- Battle Fatigue:** Support group for primary-care givers based on principals of attitudinal healing, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 5-7 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.
- Spiritual Support Groups for HIV-Positive Individuals:** Sponsored by the United Methodist AIDS Project, Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez, S.F., 7-9 p.m. Call 647-6051 or 752-3222 for more information.
- Emotional Support Group:** For people who have lost their lovers due to AIDS/ARC, 7:30 p.m. Call Sean Martinfield at 626-4329 for more information.

WEEK

TUESDAY 17

• **Support Groups for PWA and Those Concerned About AIDS:** Ongoing meeting, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 2425 Geary Blvd., 3:30-4:45 p.m. The meetings will be held in Conference Room B on the fifth floor. Call 929-4186 for details.

• **Women and AIDS:** Patricia Ruppelt will lead a discussion at 8 p.m. at Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Call 845-7852.

• **Income Tax Forum:** For people with AIDS or ARC on their income tax responsibilities, 6 p.m. Sponsored by the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Pre-registration is required. Call 864-5855.

• **Bob Sandner:** On the piano, D.J.'s, 1535 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek, 8:30 p.m.

• **Faith Winthrop and Gus Gustavson:** Music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.

• **Gay and Lesbian Literature:** Taught by Jack Collins, Everett Middle School, Church Street between 16th and 17th streets, S.F., 6:30-9:30 p.m., tuition \$15. English 56B is offered through the City College outreach program and meets every Tuesday, beginning tonight. Register the first or second night of class. The three-unit class may be taken for a letter grade or pass/fail.

• **Asian Gay Men's Support Group:** Meeting, the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 6:30-8 p.m. Call 548-8283 for more information.

• **Co-Dependency Group:** For caregivers, Kairos House, 114 Douglass St., S.F., 7-8:30 p.m. Led by Joe Tolson.

• **Master Your Mind:** Support group for people with AIDS and the worried, led by Mary Richards, 4th floor, 333 Valencia St., S.F., noon-2 p.m. Focus on meditation, visualization, empowerment, and health; not affiliated with the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Call 945-0941 for more information.

• **Gay Support Group for People With ARC:** and alcohol/substance abuse, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-9 p.m. Individual and group process. Call 626-7000 for intake appointment.

• **Evening Group Orientation:** For people with AIDS or ARC, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 333 Valencia St., 4th floor, S.F., free. Assistance in interpreting financial benefit systems, applying for government assistance programs, and information on social service agencies and discounts available. Call 864-4376 to reserve a space.

• **Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** Rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana, Berkeley, 7:30 p.m. Call 843-1439 for more information.

• **AIDS Interfaith Network:** Support group, Parsonage, 555-A Castro St., S.F., 7 p.m., free. Call 864-7462 for more information.

• **Gay International Folk Dancing:** For lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 p.m., request dancing 8-9:30 p.m., \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 285-5634 for details.

WEDNESDAY 18

• **Drop-In Group:** A bisexual and heterosexual men's AIDS/ARC/HIV group sponsored by the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Free. For information call 864-5855, ext. 2511.

• **Self-Defense Class:** Learn practical skills in a Castro/Valencia Community College class. Free. Call Chris Anderregg at 861-3523.

• **Lesbian/Gay Seniors:** A legal clinic for gay and lesbian seniors is sponsored by Operation Concern's GLOE. By appointment only. Call GLOE at 626-7000.

• **Community News:** PCTV Cable Network in Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Emeryville, Piedmont, and El Cerrito looks at the *Midnight Caller* controversy and the Milk/Moscone vigil, 10 p.m.

• **Female Trouble:** Weekly rock music club for women, 1821 Haight St., S.F., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Music by the Blood-Iox; with special guest Diviana.

• **Oscar Preston:** Jazz pianist, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8 p.m.

• **Lesbian and Gay Literature:** Course taught by Peg Cruikshank, Everett Middle School, 450 Church St., S.F., 6:30-9:30 p.m. English 55 is offered through the outreach program of City College.

• **Seth Group:** For people concerned with AIDS/ARC/HIV issues, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 6-8 p.m., \$1-\$3 sliding scale (waived for PWAs and PWARCs).

• **AIDS Caregivers:** Spiritual support group, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 p.m. Call 863-4434 for more information.

• **Stockton Connection:** Gay rap group concerning safe sex, AIDS, health issues, and lifestyle management, sponsored by the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation, 4410 N. Pershing Ave., Suite C-5, Stockton. Call (209) 476-8533 for more information.

• **Living Well With AIDS/ARC:** Support group based on the principles of attitudinal healing, Rest Stop Support Center, 134 Church St., S.F., 4-6 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.

• **Couples Support Group:** One or more of whom have AIDS, evening. Sponsored by the Shanti Project. Call 777-CARE for more information.

• **Wednesday Matinee:** Sponsored by Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, North of Market Senior Services, 333 Turk St., S.F., 2:15-4 p.m. Movies, games, and refreshments. Call 626-7000 for more information.

• **Morning Group Orientation:** For people with AIDS and ARC (see Tuesday listing for details).

• **Western Star Dancers:** Square dance for experienced mainstream level dancers, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor theater. Both males and females welcome. Every Wednesday. Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for details.

• **Womanspirit:** MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 19

• **Square Dance Classes:** Classes for beginners start Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., Live Oak School, 117 Diamond (at 18th). Call Foggy City Dancers, 339-0537 or 586-2748.

• **Frank Banks:** Sing-along piano, Charpe's Grill, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 p.m.

• **Faith Winthrop and Gus Gustavson:** Music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.

• **Lambda Amateur Radio Club:** Meeting, 8 p.m. Call 863-1196 for more information.

• **Asian/Pacific Island HIV:** Support group for bisexual and gay men, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 8-9:30 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.

• **Rainbow's End:** Gay and lesbian youth project, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo, 7 p.m. Call 457-1115 for more information.

• **Journal Group:** For caregivers, Kairos House, 114 Douglass St., S.F., 7:30-8:30 p.m. Led by Sister Romona Novak.

• **Bingo:** To benefit Coming Home Hospice, S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank, and the AIDS Emergency Fund, Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., doors open 6 p.m., games begin 7 p.m., \$10 minimum buy-in. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and nonalcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and nonsmoking areas. Pull tabs, door prizes, raffle.



A diverse group of family and friends struggle to find common ground while standing vigil in *Passing*, Robert W. Pitman's play at Theatre Rhinoceros.

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a drama of love and mortality

PASSING

by Robert W. Pitman directed by Kelly Hill

Jan. 14-Feb. 18
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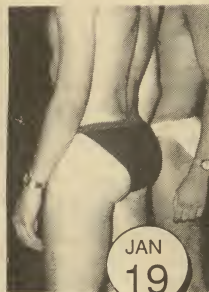
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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 12, 1989 PAGE 25

BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A History Lesson

'Black Cat's Tale' Takes Us Back To the Gay Reality of the 1950s

by Noreen C. Barnes

Two years ago, when she was a dramaturg intern with Tale Spinners Theatre, Kimberly Brown began to research the history of the Black Cat, a gay North Beach bar of the 1950s. It was her first work in theatre, and although the information she gathered might have been passed along to a playwright for background material for a script, Brown knew that she wanted the Black Cat to be her project. She has seen the work evolve from a reading last spring, to a workshop in November, to a full production, opening—appropriately enough—on Friday, Jan. 13 at Theatre Rhinoceros Studio.

Brown found the play difficult to write, as it "came in bits and pieces," and it was largely based on oral history—through her interviews with people who had worked at and frequented the bar. Whenever she would get "stuck in the writing," she found that talking with someone who had been at the Black Cat renewed her faith in the work, as others were becoming interested in and excited about her play.

She discovered that she had to arrive at her own interpretation of the Black Cat, because no two people remembered it the same way. She had to select elements from all viewpoints, and gradually, a picture evolved of what the bar was like—a fusion of her own and others' visions.

It was, for Brown, a realization of the subjective nature of history. For example, she could never get quite an accurate sense of what women looked like at the time, as she was told that they all wore skirts, or dressed as men did. The butch-femme roles, however, seemed to be very important, and more distinct than they have been in the last two decades (although they have been revived).

Even though there were more men than women at The Black Cat, and it was not the women's "home" bar, Brown chose them to "anchor" the play. The situation of one female character who has been kicked out of the military for being a lesbian is reminiscent of current events. Director Jill Lounsbury cites the same kind of "twisted logic" used during the time of the play (the McCarthy era) and the present.

Lounsbury, who also directed the workshop version of the play, enjoys working on original scripts, "creating something new" with a playwright and group of actors. She says "it's unfair how playwrights get treated" by most directors, and believes that their work, and words, are not respected. It is very easy for a director to adapt a play to suit their needs, but Lounsbury prefers the harder route of standing up for the playwright, and trying

to interpret her vision faithfully.

She really collaborates with her actors as well, talking through the script with them before they get up and work on it. She asks questions—constantly—until the actors find what she wants them to do and she feels that they "own" their work, feel right about what they are doing, and why they are doing it. She views her task as director as that of making Brown's play clear, comprehensive, and theatrically effective; to preserve the writer's intent while adding things to clarify (such as nonverbal moments), and direct the focus of the audience through her staging when crucial (during the purse-switch).

Both Lounsbury and Brown consider the play to be a "history lesson" of sorts to the contemporary gay community, as we still face many of the issues now that gays did in the 1950s, particularly that of how people deal with living with hostility from the majority of the population. There was, perhaps a lot more self-hatred in the community then—an internalized homophobia brought on by the prevailing belief in the deviance of homosexuality, of it as a disease, as something that was wrong with us. The play explores the range of responses to societal prejudice, from flamboyant "outness" to closeted denial.



Government efforts to close down the Black Cat made the bar's regulars wary of strangers.

Brown notes that gay and lesbian history is "still in the sociology section in the library—somewhere in between incest and prostitution." Both she and Lounsbury, during the production of the play in November, were surprised by the comments of young actors who did not understand the paranoia of the characters in the play. Brown and Lounsbury found themselves giving the actors a "crash course" in gay history.

Lounsbury believes that it is vital for the gay community to know its history, and the production of pieces like *Black Cat's Tale* can be a way to do it: "The gay people in the 1950s had to

fight very hard, just so we can walk into this bar today (the interview took place at Cafe St. Marcos) without being hassled."

The November workshop was near election time, and it brought home for those working on *Black Cat's Tale* a fear of a renewed apathy, especially in light of Props. 96 and 102. "Our rights could be taken away," Lounsbury snaps her fingers, "like that." ▼

Black Cat's Tale

The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros
2926 16th St., S.F.
Fri.-Sun. through Jan. 22, 8 p.m.
with matinees Jan. 15 & 22 at 3 p.m.
Tickets: \$9 general; \$8 seniors and students, call 861-5079

'Passing' Continues Rhino's Commitment to AIDS Plays

by Wendell Ricketts



Passing author Robert W. Pitman and director Kelly Hill.
(Photo: Shari Cohen)

Seven years into the AIDS crisis, the theater community has been irreversibly touched by the epidemic—both in its dramatic product and in its creative work force. In fact, at a time when Hollywood has yet to produce a single mainstream movie about AIDS and the handiwork of television is marked chiefly by its ambivalence, theater has forged art's earliest and most enduring response to AIDS.

Perhaps nowhere has this been more true than at San Francisco's own Theatre Rhinoceros. In 1984 Rhino presented what may well have been the first "AIDS play"—*The AIDS Show*—and the theater has distinguished itself since by its dedication to the production of at least one AIDS-related script each season.

Now, continuing its commitment to the theater that originates in the struggles and triumphs of the epidemic, Rhino announces Robert W. Pitman's *Passing*, premiering Jan. 14 on the main stage.

Passing, as its title may suggest, concerns the final weeks in the life of Pony, a terminally ill man languishing in a San Francisco hospital. Pitman bravely holds his focus on the discreet elements of Pony's "passing"—the hospital room, the ripples

that Pony's imminent death sends into the lives of his friends and family, the vigil his loved ones keep at his side.

From such a description, it may seem that *Passing* has crossed over the line where drama becomes too "real" for an audience to accept. But wait. There are no deathbed soliloquies here, no overwrought elegies on injustice, no ghoulish makeup. Pitman presumes that Bay Area audiences know the reality all too well to stand for a pale depiction. Indeed, *Passing's* set bears only slight resemblance to the hospital rooms many of us have visited.

Director Kelly Hill and a team of talented designers have conceived a clever *mise en scène* in which the essential hospital elements are rendered from the perspective of Pony himself. Thus the bed is a large, plush, womblike construction; the hospital drapes are yards of gauzy swirls that play constant tricks with light. It is the world as Pony might experience it—down to the bright flash that signals every opening of the door to his room.

As Pony enters the hospital for what proves to be the last time, his parents, his lover, and his best friend gather to be with him. Though all care deeply for Pony,

they have little else in common.

Pony's parents, a kind of Ozzie-and-Harriet couple, have flown in from a suburb of Cleveland, where Pony's father is a Mason. Barry, Pony's lover, is a butch, assimilated, rather battle-weary fellow who has clearly borne the weight of Pony's illness for some time. And then there is Teddy, Pony's closest, oldest friend, an eccentric queen who still lives in Pony's home town; Pony's mother euphemistically describes him as "theatrical."

What quickly becomes clear is that the members of this small group know very little about each other—or about one another's place in Pony's life. Barry, for example, has never met Teddy. And Pony's parents, although they know that Barry is Pony's "friend," seem mildly surprised by his obvious intention to remain at Pony's side.

When Barry offers Pony's parents the loan of his and Pony's car, Dad won't accept. Mom tries to smooth things over, telling Pony, "Oh, you know how your father is about taking favors from outside of the family." Innocently, she fails to realize how the refusal of the car and her explanation relegate Barry to the margins of Pony's life.

(Continued on page 30)

'Almost Asleep' a Beautifully Crafted Piece of Theater



Clockwise, from lower left: Esther Scott, Lynn Odell, Deborah Slater, and Mary Forcade in the new play, *Almost Asleep*.

by Noreen C. Barnes

One year ago this week, I sat mesmerized by the power of Julie Hebert's reading at the West Coast Women in Theatre Conference about her violent rape on 24th Street. Last Friday night, I found myself against overcome with the force of Hebert's words and compelling images in *Almost Asleep*, a beautifully crafted, directed, and executed piece.

John Mayne's twilight world is one of soft blues and whites where dreams are shrink-wrapped, the stars painted on plexiglass, catching light and shadows, and windows look onto an inner space of darker blues and skeins of red. A "whispered opera of the mind," *Almost Asleep* is a blend of rage, revenge, fear, guilt, humor, and sadness, played to perfection by a true ensemble of five women, each possessing remarkable physical and vocal talents complemented by the others in the cast.

Each portrays a "different aspect of one woman's mind as she drifts off to sleep." The women (Esther Scott, Mary Forcade, Gina Leishman, Lynn Odell, and

Deborah Slater) serve to echo and provide choral background to each other's words, to be both collective and specialized memories, to voice their concerns—from blaming herself ("I always blunder") to hunger. Scott and Leishman provide haunting vocal and instrumental music that reverberates through the space, and the entire piece possesses a musical quality in its structure and performance.

The various selves (placed along the spectrum between emotion and reason) question, justify, seek answers and consolation throughout, with visions of revenge and fear—of the woman's physical weakness, of her beauty, of sex and men. With a lapse into a silence is the observation that "silence is choking" and "the corner must be turned"—with that, the actors explode into activity—into *doing*—from replaying moments of the rape to a litany of profane poetry and violence—a cathartic outpouring of curses and building of emotion, skillfully undercut with moments of humor. The images are shocking,

graphic, beautiful.

The parts of the self come to the realization—and there is comfort and hope in it—that she *survived*, and she is able to at least begin to reclaim herself and her body and literally gather her strength for another day. Hebert took her rage and transformed it into the healing magic of theater.

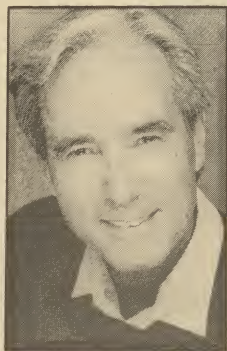
In a prefacing piece, *Beneath the Thin Skin*, written by Hebert and choreographed and performed by Slater, Slater's clean, sharp movements and Hebert's images blend as a provocative and appropriate introduction to *Almost Asleep*. Slater is both self (woman) and other (man), both *I* and *she*. Shadows created by the spare lighting formed stigmata on her raised hands in the final moments.

★★★★
Almost Asleep
Intersection for the Arts
766 Valencia St., S.F.
Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m., through Jan. 21
Tickets: \$8 Wed./Thu.; \$10 Fri./Sat.
Call 626-2787

GG Men's Chorus Taps Thomas As New Director

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus announced that it has hired Dr. Walter E. Thomas as its new music director.

Thomas earned his doctor of Musical Arts from Stanford University and was a recipient of a Ford Foundation Grant. He was an Associate Professor of Music at Indiana University where he served as Director of Choral Organizations. More recently, he was Director of Choral Organizations at Henry M. Gunn Senior High School in Palo Alto. He has also served as Choral music Adjudicator for the states of California and Indiana.



Dr. Walter E. Thomas.

"I am very excited to conduct this chorus," Thomas said. "The history of this group has been one of musical excellence, and I am interested in trying new things with them to increase their repertoire. Our singers are excellent, and as far as I'm concerned they can sing anything, from Renaissance to modern music."

Thomas also wants to increase the size of the group and is announcing that auditions will be held in January. All men's voices are needed. For more information contact Thomas at 369-3452 or Derek Gordon at 621-1585. ▼

The ENDUP

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Los Angeles actor-activist and producer-performer **Michael Kearns** offers an evening of words and wisdom drawn from his life and work and the work of others, including Robert Chesley, James Carroll Pickett and Paul Monette.



Saturday/Jan. 21/2-4 p.m.

We host a book party to celebrate publication of *Prime Time* by actor **Dean Goodman**, writing with reflective wit about a man's everyday passions, romances and friendships in San Francisco. Author "Douglas Dean" will also read.



Later this month: **Antonio A. Feliz** discusses "Out of the Bishop's Closet," Sat., Jan. 25, 3 p.m.; **Pat Califia** reads from "Macho Sluts" Sunday, Jan. 29, 3:30 p.m. Coming up: poet **Robert Peters** (Feb. 4); "AIDS: The Women" (Feb. 9); **David Feinberg** (Feb. 18); **Daniel Curzon** (Feb. 26); **Karla Jay** (Feb. 26); **David Leavitt** (March 4).

**Gay People Make a Gay Paper.
Bay Area Reporter**

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Poor Direction, Miscasting Sabotage 'Tales of Hoffman'

I suppose that one of the bigger disappointments of the counterculture lifestyle was the painful realization that one's most brilliant ideas somehow managed to seem a lot less inspired as soon as one came out from under a cloud of alcohol, grass and other mind-altering substances. That might be why, during the 1970s, some people's credibility became so severely damaged as to render them fools in the eyes of their peers and colleagues. Even today, when I voice some amusingly bizarre notion which has popped into my head, people tend to look at me in shocked disbelief and mutter such polite and sweetly deprecating epithets as "You must be on drugs!"

No so. It's the simple curse of having a creative mind.

"Impulses are notoriously unselective and, when you're an impulsive, creative person, you eventually learn how to sort the good out from the bad," explains director Peter Mark Schifter. "Most people think I'm on drugs, too, and yet I don't even drink. I'm a teetotaler! I'm also the first person to admit that one of my supposedly brilliant ideas is putrid—as they so often are. In any event, I prefer working in theatre (as opposed to film and television) because the theatre is all about taking 3,000 people seated in a darkened room and having them experience a common emotion: whether it be laughter, tears, shock, horror, dismay, or whatever. The theatre involves a world



Julia Migenes was in over her head in the Los Angeles Music Center Opera's production of Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman*.

which remains interesting because of its sweeping changes in mood and atmosphere. Opera,

which is one of the most sublime and yet most vulgar of all theatrical forms, is, in many ways, an

arena for monsters."

Indeed it is. And nothing in opera offers quite as appallingly monstrous a spectacle as the diva who insists on tackling a role which is frighteningly unsuited to her talents. Nevertheless, there are times when these monsters let their egos dictate some absolutely ludicrous decisions. Two monstrous casting ideas recently dominated the operatic stage with the kind of results that make film epics like *Godzilla Versus Megalon* resemble a tea party at Buckingham Palace. Here's what happened.

THE WRONG STUFF

With Renata Scotto no longer appearing at the Metropolitan Opera, Eva Marton has assumed the rank of resident diva. A particularly fine artist whose vocal strength lends power to works by Wagner, Strauss and Puccini, Marton was scheduled to tackle Verdi's *Lady Macbeth* and *Lenora* (in *Il Trovatore*) at the Met in 1988. While the bluntness of her instrument might have served her well in the early Verdi opera (a production which suffered irrevocably from cancellations by Marton, Renato Bruson and Giuseppe Sinopoli) the Hungarian diva was as woefully miscast singing Verdi's *Leonora* as she might have been singing *Gilda*, *Norma*, or *Rosina*.

Bad ideas, unfortunately, tend to gather frightening momentum, and when the Met committed itself to airing *Il Trovatore* as part of its "Live From Lincoln Center" series, the company and its lead soprano ended up making total fools of themselves on national television. I had the distinct misfortune of attending one of the performances at the Metropolitan Opera House that was being taped for delayed telecast and, in addition to being appalled by the somewhat-muted horror of Fabrizio Melano and Ezio Frigerio's overblown pro-

duction plastique (whose faux marble columns delight in playing musical chairs on the Met's stage) could not believe that the Met would go ahead and televise such a grim spectacle as this ill-fated staging of *Il Trovatore*.

But fools (including such great artists as James Levine and Eva Marton) often rush in where angels fear to tread and it was only through the grace and power of mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick's exciting Met debut as Azucena that this performance could claim to have any socially redeeming values. Marton was dreadfully off-pitch and stylistically mismatched to the music; Sherrill Milnes sounded old and dry as the evil Count di Luna. Even Luciano Pavarotti's Manrico was cautiously sung and noticeably under par. The evening offered Met audiences the worst kind of microwaved opera—what Peter Mark Schifter refers to as "dead art."

The irony is that, several weeks prior to this telecast, I visited with friends in Seattle who complained about the nagging persistence with which Met telefundraisers had recently solicited them for donations (claiming that, with Texaco in such dire financial straits, more money was needed to pay for the Met's upcoming telecasts). When one friend declined the opportunity to give his money to the Met (and explained, in no uncertain terms, that he prefers to make his donations to the Seattle Opera) the Met's telefundraiser said "Well, it's nice that you give money to your regional opera company, and of course, you should support your local arts organizations. But none of that money comes to New York."

"Neither do I," chuckled my friend, as he slammed the receiver back into its cradle. Other acquaintances inform me that they have, on recent occasions, informed the Met's telefundraisers that if they want people to donate money to support future telecasts, they might first try improving the quality of the Met's artistic product. Few would disagree.

RAGGEDLY OLYMPIA

Down in Los Angeles, a great deal of attention was focused on Michael Kaye's new performance edition of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffman*. While Kaye's work may be quite interesting to musicologists, it was profoundly sabotaged by Frank Corsaro's poor stage direction. Other negative factors affecting the performance I attended made one less interested in the fruits of Kaye's research and more concerned with how long it would take before the final curtain descended. Why? Following a long matinee of *Così Fan Tutte* which had heated up the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the auditorium's air-conditioning system broke down, leaving the audience in extreme discomfort while the performers sweltered onstage (after the long first act, conductor Richard Buckley instructed his instrumentalists to take off their jackets and ties in order to be more comfortable while playing).

Despite the presence of superstar tenor Plácido Domingo (who doubles as LAMCO's artistic advisor) in the title role, the unfortunate miscasting of

(Continued on next page)

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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 12, 1989 PAGE 28

Women's Film Fest to Honor Immortal 'Googie Gomez'

Stage, screen, television and recording artist Rita Moreno will appear in person at her tribute by "On Screen: A Celebration of Women in Film," Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres, 1881 Post Street, San Francisco. The fifth annual festival is sponsored by Northern California Women in Film and Television and Union Bank (formerly California First Bank). The Tribute Evening to Moreno will include clips from her career, an on-stage interview and the presentation of a special award.

On Screen chose Moreno as this year's tributee in recognition of her versatility as a performer and for her contributions to the creation of opportunities for minority groups in the entertainment industry. Moreno has the unique distinction of being the only woman to have won all four of the most prestigious show business awards, the Oscar, Emmy, Tony and Grammy. Her work as a member of the board of directors of Third World Cinema and other organizations has helped increase the visibility and acceptance of minority talent in Hollywood.

Moreno, who was born Delores Averia in Humacao, Puerto Rico, began her film career at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios. Early in her career, she made some 25 films, "too many of them as a 'Mexican spitfire' or an Indian Maiden," she says. It was only after her Oscar-winning performance as Anita in *West Side Story* that she was recognized as a major talent.

George Heymont

(Continued from page 28)

Julia Migenes as Hoffman's four sexual fantasies came dangerously close to sinking the show. Vocally, Migenes' talent was ill-matched to the demands of Olympia's music and Corsaro's direction of the Doll Scene did little to help her. Although the soprano fared best with Antonia (where her strength as an actress helped to underline the dying young woman's fragility) her Giulietta proved to be disappointingly bland. Even the strong contributions from Rodney Gilfry's four villains (Lindorf, Coppelius, Dr. Miracle and Dapertutto), Stephanie Vlahos' Nicklausse, and Michael Smith (as Andres, Cochenille, Frantz and Pitichianaccio) could not salvage a performance whose dramatic core had been so brutally sabotaged by the miscasting of the lead soprano and by the director's piss-poor work.

Ironically, this production of *The Tales Of Hoffman* used the same physical sets and costumes that had been rented from the Greater Miami Opera for the San Francisco Opera's triumphant string of performances in 1987. Considering the potential this production holds to deliver a rousing good show, the difference in the lead soprano and stage direction proved fatal, which is why, despite the noblest of intentions, LAMCO's presentation of *The Tales Of Hoffman* was such a grave disappointment. ▼



Rita Moreno as the immortal "Googie Gomez."

In 1962, Moreno moved to London where she was featured in the Hal Prince production of *She Loves Me* and she later returned to New York to star in Lorraine Hansberry's *The Sign on Sidney Braunstein's Window*. On Broadway, she appeared in numerous productions including *The Ritz*, for which she received a Tony Award.

Moreno's films include *The King And I*, *Night of the Following Day*, *Marlowe*, *Popi*, *Carnal Knowledge*, and *The Ritz*, in which she recreated her stage role of the outlandish Googie Gomez, a woman, as she puts it, "of little talent and great courage." She also appeared in the 1981 Alan Alda film *The Four Seasons*.

Moreno will attend her Jan. 14 On Screen tribute with her husband Leonard Gordon, who is a physician, and their daughter Fernanda Luisa, a college student and aspiring actress.

The On Screen festival will take place Jan. 13-16 at the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres. The program will feature two films on opening night, *In the Cage*, directed by Poland's Barbara Sass, and *God's Will*, directed by Julia Cameron.

Both women will attend the festival. This year's On Screen will also feature "American Pioneer Women Filmmakers," a day-long program which focuses on women directors from Mary Pickford to Maya Deren who have significantly altered the way we look at films today.

The 1989 On Screen also boasts a rich variety of foreign films. In addition to Barbara Sass' *In the Cage*, the festival will also feature the Polish director's *Without Love*, *The Scream*, and *The Girls From Novolipki Street*. Films from Soviet central Asia, Czechoslovakia, South Africa, China, Australia, India, France, and Brazil, among other countries, will also be screened.

As part of its annual tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, On Screen will present programs saluting the legacy of the slain civil rights leader, including a panel featuring black women in television and a retrospective of filmmaker Julie Dash's works.



For more information about the 1989 On Screen, please call Pat Beaupre at 495-3456. ▼

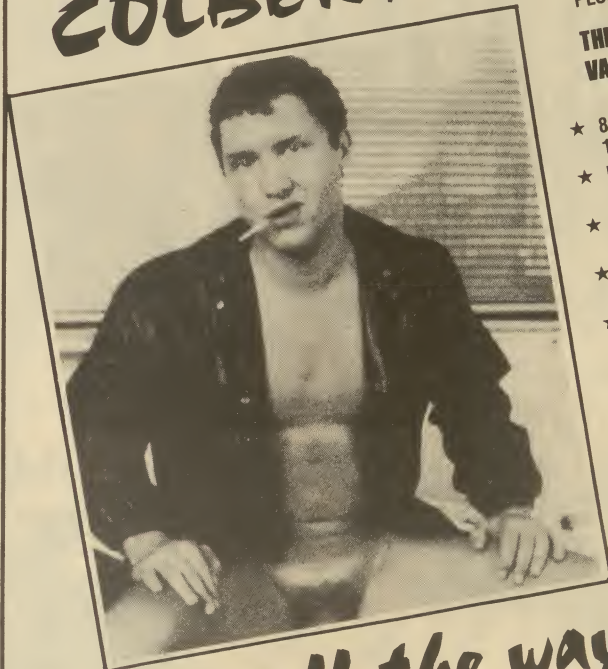
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(Continued from page 26)

Playwright Pitman comments, "One of the things that became clear to me in the process of developing *Passing* is that a lot of the conflict that people have in the play is really Pony's fault. Pony compartmentalized his life. Had he not done that, these individuals would have been able to work through their differences long before. They would know each other.

"That's very much the way my life was lived until recently," he admits. "I lived with the same man for 21 years on two different coasts, but my parents and I never mentioned it. We colluded in silence. By not discussing it, we avoided all that [potential] difficulty. But the silence also prevented a full sharing of my life with them. And partly because of this play and partly because of my own health, that's not an issue anymore."

There is another character in *Passing*—Mario—a "figment of the imagination" whom only Pony can see. As a teenager, Pony invented Mario as a sex fantasy; two decades later, he has become Pony's most faithful companion. It is Mario's presence that allows Pitman to put "a bit of magic" into his play, as well as to provide a glimpse into Pony's private thoughts and personal history.

Mario also gives Pitman the opportunity to establish a wider context for Pony's death. As Pony lies dying, Mario enacts a series of historical vignettes—Daniel Defoe describing the progress of the plague in 18th century Europe, a fictitious "Prudence" advising the suspension of civil liberties in order to keep the

Black Death out of England. When a nurse enters Pony's room fully gowned, gloved, and masked Mario obliges by appearing in the cowl and robes of an Italian plague physician of the 1600s.

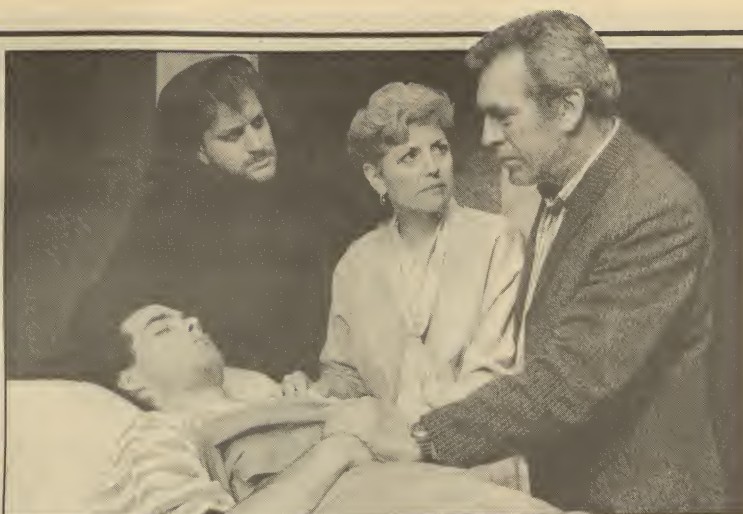
Mario's wry observations and the banter between him and Pony provide *Passing*'s moments of levity, as well as establish a blunt commentary—slightly reminiscent of *Strange Interlude*—on the conversations that take place at Pony's bedside. The quality of their intimacy is such that Pony confides, "Mario, you've been the best part of this."

Ultimately, the conflicts and misunderstandings that arise in the course of *Passing* do find a kind of resolution as Pony's death draws nearer—not permanent solutions, but bridges strong enough to allow Pony to die in the midst of, as he says, "familiar voices" harmonized for a time by their shared love for him.

For Pitman, the deaths of several friends, and his later work as a Shanti volunteer, had a great deal to do with what he calls "a connection to the vigil process." He recalls, "The death of Allen Estes was the first where I was physically present. And it was cathartic, an incredibly intense experience. For once, life was vastly more dramatic than anything else.

"What was wonderful about the group who assembled at Allen's dying was that many of them were people I probably wouldn't have had a connection with [under other circumstances]. The only thing we had in common was death, but that was okay because it allowed us to come together. Our differences were not necessarily washed away, but they were subverted. And that was the truth I wanted people to see."

In particular, he says, "I want-



A strange spirit (the hooded Mario Mondelli) haunts the bedside as parents Jennette Dovell and Ron Lanzaare visit with their sleeping son (John Hogan) in *Passing*. (Photo: Steve Savage)

ed to explore the creation of—not community and not family—but something made up of those two words that happens around the death of a mutually loved individual."

The importance of harmonizing the "compartments" of a life is one of *Passing*'s central motifs, a proposition that has left its mark on Pitman's own relationships, as well. "In some respects," he muses, "I wish [this recognition] had come 20 years ago. But today I can say, 'Don't wait. Get it said. Get it clear.' Harvey Milk was absolutely right [about the value of coming out]. Now, in fact, I think that speaking honestly about AIDS is just an extension of what Harvey had to say." ▼

Passing
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'Remember My Name' at the Zephyr

Remember My Name, which had its West Coast premiere on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Zephyr Theatre in San Francisco, is David Lemos' personal response to seeing the AIDS Memorial Quilt on display.

That visit to Moscone Center two years ago completely changed Lemos' life around. At the time he was living in Los Angeles, working as a comedy writer for a popular radio personality. The very same day that he saw the quilt, he put down a deposit on an apartment in San Francisco and began the creative process that ultimately put the play onstage, first in Washington, and now in San Francisco.

Remember My Name tells how the quilt came into being and tells us also about the people who were involved in its creation, both the living and the dead. It is poignant, angry and even, in places, surprisingly funny. Directed by Kenneth Kelleher, it features a cast of nine actors.

To Lemos, *Remember My*

Name is his way of saying "we will never forget these people." His hope for the play is that it will move audiences, make them examine their attitudes, compel them to respond in some way. After seeing it, his own mother, a social worker in Los Angeles who had never been involved in any AIDS project, became a Shanti volunteer.

Remember My Name opened yesterday and will play through Feb. 19 at the Zephyr Theatre, 25 Van Ness at Market in San Francisco. Tickets are \$18 for Wednesday and Thursday evening shows (8 p.m.), and Saturday and Sunday matinees (2 p.m.). Saturday and Sunday evening tickets are \$20. Tickets are available through the Zephyr Theatre Box Office (415) 861-6895 and BASS/Ticketmaster ticket outlets (415) 762-BASS and (408) 988-BASS. To secure group ticket information, call (415) 995-2887. Net proceeds will benefit the Names Project and other organizations that help people with AIDS. ▼



Eloise Chitman, Miguel Nagera, and Michael Cronin (l. to r.) are caught up in the drama of AIDS in *Remember My Name*.

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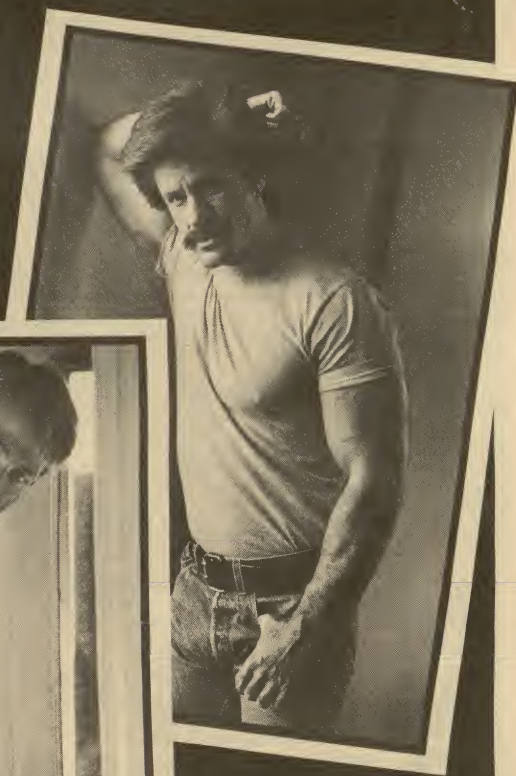
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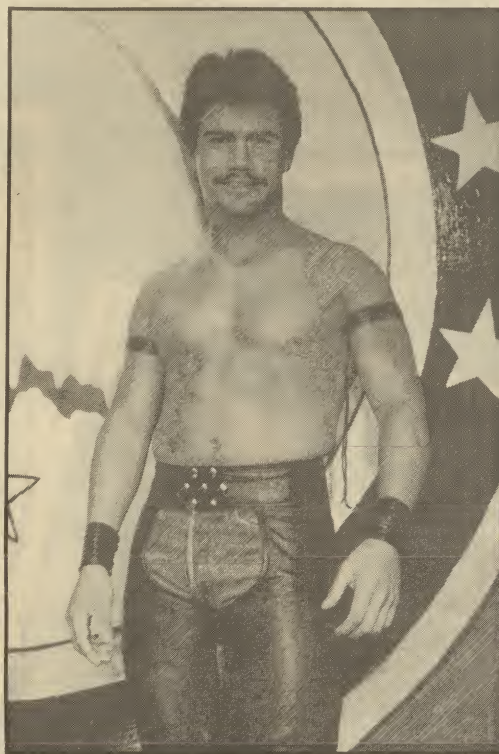
Ms. Leather

Ms Leather of San Francisco Is All Set for January 20 Contest

A galaxy of leather women luminaries will converge on the Kennel Club on Friday, Jan. 20th as the third annual Ms. Leather of San Francisco contest gets underway. Time flies! Tickets are only \$10 and they're going fast according to all the reports I've heard. Mistress Kathy will MC the event and the lineup of personal appearances and talent will boggle the mind. Consider this: Ms. Southern California Leather Corky Davis; Rainbeau will perform a not-to-be-missed interlude sure to be the talk of the town. Ms. Leather of SF Scooter Jenkins and Mr. Leather of SF Stephen Mistler will perform as will Dick Carlson with his tantalizing bull whips. Diane Amos, comedienne extraordinaire, will do a bit and Ms. Leather of Sacramento will perform as well. The line-up of judges also beams with female leather icons including Sonne, Mistress Carole, B.C. Cliver, Bobbie Foster and Jolanne Tierney. Intl. Ms. Leather Shan Carr will be on hand and they're still accepting applications if you're interested. Contestants should contact Ms. San Francisco Leather at 1161 Market St., Suite 490, SF 94114 or call (415) 771-3351. Don't miss this exciting event. You all know where the Kennel Club is don't you? It's at 628 Divisadero (at Grove) and the doors open at 2000 hours. Get there early!

★ ★ ★

The most exciting thing that happened this weekend was the 49er victory over the Chicago Bears. For some reason I get the impression that San Francisco sports writers (definitely not the gay ones) are extremely bitchy. All week, the Chron and the X-rated one were predicting all sorts of gloom: the weather, the Bear offense and defense; the mad Chicago fans. Even Bryant Gumble on "Today" was rooting for the hated Bears. It was



Michael Chase produces the Bear's leather contests on Wednesday nights, Jan. 11-25. (Photo: Robert Pruzan)

dishgusting. Lord knows, they certainly didn't need to hype a playoff game, yet they persisted and only one of them came flat out and predicted a 49er win! As it turned out, bear meat was scattered all over Chicago. The Windy City absolutely blew it! All over town, real Niner fans were into it up to their ears; the imagined fans got swept up in the fever as well. A boisterous Chicago-style crowd was on hand at Uncle Berts. At the SF-Eagle their three big screens were go-

ing full blast as each 49er possession elicited wild cheering. In the end, the hated Mike Ditka had to admit, "They [the 49ers] were a better prepared team." If you're going to Miami for the Super Bowl, I hope your charge card is all paid up. This one will not be on "sale"—just ask Danny Williams!

Last week was tame (as opposed to dull) as everyone was lifting themselves out of the doldrums from the Xmas



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Tatiana entertains Larry Cook at Kimo's after a show in which \$1,056 was raised for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank. (Photo: Jennifer)



New face in town, Rusty, singing (as Marilyn Monroe) "Happy Birthday" to Stanley Boyd at the Mint on Saturday night. (Photo: Jennifer)

and New Year festivities. Last Wednesday night, only 2 contestants showed up for the first round of the Bear's Mr. Leather competition. You can't draw crowds with just flyers on the cigarette machine! Jerry Downing was very disappointed. The second round was held last night and I hope they had a better turnout. After all, it isn't easy to convert a Disastro bar into a leather bar as so many have learned in the past. The third round is on Wednesday, Jan 18th and the finals are on Wednesday, Jan. 25th. Hello Castro Leather Men—hello??

Friday there was a big turnout for the memorial services for Charlene "Scotty" Scott up at the Russian River. Just looking around the chapel, you could tell that Scotty was well-known in many diverse circles. In spite of the weather, the church was filled to capacity and the service was just beautiful. Men and women from all walks of life were in attendance and the celebration

afterwards at the Woods was just as Scotty would have wanted it. A damn good woman has left us and we are that much poorer. They don't make them anymore like Charlene Scott.

No report yet on the Mr. Leather of All Hawaii contest in Honolulu at Hamburger Mary's last weekend. Intl. Mr. Leather Mike Pereyra was on hand though and served as a judge.

Amid all the 49er hysteria, the SF-Eagle actually didn't have the patio scheduled for a benefit, so they put on the beer bust themselves. Ernie Viola (single again!)

was cooking up a storm of barbecued chicken while one of his ex's watched wistfully. A big crowd suddenly erupted as people wandered in after watching the big game at home or at any one of the numerous Playoff Brunches. I didn't get a report on Bill Mole's final tally of hours in the bathtub full of pork & beans yet, but the smell was all over town. Good show—Bill will never eat pork and beans again!

Hey, got any old leather you aren't wearing anymore, just sitting in your (Continued on next page)



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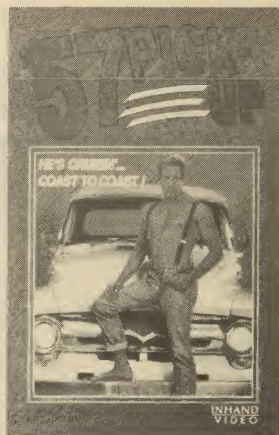


Phoebe Planter was one of the guests at Stanley Boyd's birthday party at the Mint on Saturday, Jan. 7. (Photo: Jennifer)

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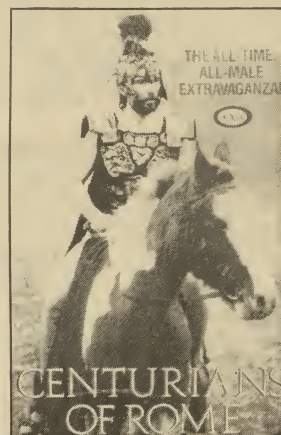


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(Continued from previous page)

closet collecting dust? The Castro Lions are throwing their annual Donor Leather Auction and Beer Bust at the Eagle on Sunday, Feb. 12. Last year they raised over \$1,500 just auctioning off the skins. This year's beneficiaries are the Open Hand Endowment Fund and the Peter Claver AIDS/ARC Residence. The beer bust is only \$8 from 1500-1800 plus a nice food array. If you've got any leather you're

not wearing (read: don't fit anymore), call Tom at 861-5016 and he'll be glad to take it off your hands. Maybe some aspirants to the throne would do well at this one. Speaking of thrones, Emperor Steve was at the Eagle last Sunday too—I don't know why he don't talk to me anymore, do you? Does he?

★ ★ ★

The Barbary Coasters M/C are gearing up for their 23rd Annual Motorcycle Awards Show on Saturday, 18 Feb. The nominations are in and there are a lot of surprises already. Warren Cave and

Chuck Eargle have been nominated for the coveted Man of the Year. The awards weekend will be busy for both members and independent bikers what with the Constantines' Mix 'n' Match on Friday, 17 Feb. Immediately following the awards ceremony, the GDI's will throw the annual Winners' Circle party and the next day, Sunday, 19 February, the Golden Gate Guards (formerly the Imperial Guards) will have a brunch for the whole gang. Watch this space for the times, prices, locations. There were a lot of surprises in the nominated "show" numbers both "in-town" and on weekend runs. They'll be showing the nominated numbers at the Transfer (video) on Saturday, 14 Jan. at 1930 hours. Surprise!

★ ★ ★

Last night, they had a big blowout at the RushRiv's elegant Scotts' Restaurant; it was a benefit for "Food for Thought" and the program included Bob Lucas, Lois Tanner and Momi Starr for a jazz-filled dinner and show. The event was practically sold out and high praise for Scotts' and Ms. Torch who put most of it together and that's what community cooperation is all about! Next time you're up at the RushRiv, stop into Scotts'. They've got a whole new menu for the off-season and the atmosphere is more than total!

Don't forget the big Roast of George Burgess on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at the Holiday Inn on Pine and Van Ness. The ducats are only \$25 (for the AIDS Emergency Fund) and the list of "roasters" is beginning to look like the Who's Who of SF, gay and straight! Send your check to Leather Daddy V Zach Long, 929 Stanyan St., SF 94117 or call (415) 662-8290. Do it now as it will be sold out any day. Oh boy, George, you're really gonna get it! This one should be video taped and put in a time capsule so future gay men and women will know how much a real leather man is appreciated!

★ ★ ★

So you wanna be on the 1990 Bare Chest Calendar? Mr. January 1990 will be selected at the first competition of the year on Thursday, Jan. 26th at 2200 hours. Johnny Hedges (the Balloon Man) will be one of the judges. The contests will continue every other Thursday at the Eagle so all you pump-up dudes better get ready.



Crazed 49ers fans root for the home team at the Bear.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

This weekend, Deena Jones appears Saturday in concert at Milestones (5th & Harrison); the 5th Annual Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leatherman contest is going on all weekend in Washington, D.C. at Tracks with a healthy contingent from here going for it; Pat Montclair, Jerry Coletti, Sweet Lips, and Empress I of Los Angeles, Larey, will share MC honors at the Miss Gay West Coast USA Pageant at 240 Golden Gate Ave. on Saturday night, and the Miss ETVC Cotillion is the same night at the California Club.

The Watering Hole begins their search for a representative in the Mr. Leather of SF contest beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 1st and again on Feb. 8th, 15th and the finals on 22 Feb. Signup now!

Have you met Richard Labonté, the new manager of A Different Light Bookstore on Castro? He recently took over that fabulous book haven and things are happening already. Everybody's favorite Thespian, Douglas Dean (aka Dean Goodman) will be celebrating the publication of his book "Prime Time" on Saturday, Jan. 21st



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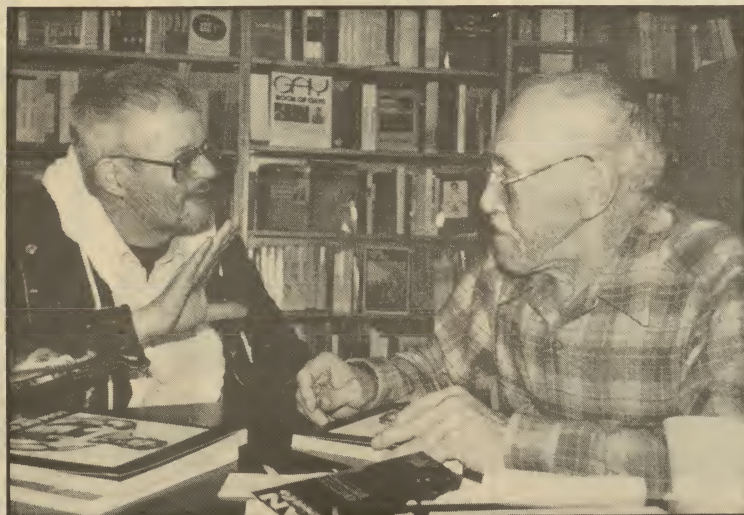
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Author Geoff Mains and illustrator Tom of Finland had a brief confab at Tom's booksigning at A Different Light bookshop.

(Photo: Robert Pruzan)

M.J. Murphy

Gay Words Describe Gay Worlds

While tunnelling through the stacks of gay history books at the library, I came upon a book, 392/G7605a, that sent me on a captivating tour through gay culture, particularly our language. I'd heard the words *faggot* and *bulldyke* said with the cool, crisp sound of a backhanded slap, and while I knew perfectly well what was meant, it would have been nice to have been able to go over to the dictionary and look them up. But I couldn't do that because they're not in the dictionary, so you can't look them up there, either. You'll just have to trust me on this one.

Faggot is derived from the Latin word *fagus*, the beech tree. Branches from the beech became the sacred firesticks of ancient Greek wizards. It is also related to both the fairy-wand divining rod and to the Roman *fascis*, a bundle of sticks signifying collective masculine force. Well, how about that?

This definition, as well as several others that I'll use, is taken from *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds* by Judy Grahn. Grahn has succeeded where Webster, Oxford, and others have failed. She gives definitions in the glossary of the book, then, in the text, she unravels the mystery and wonder of gay history in the myths and the languages of ancient western cultures.

Fairy-wand divining rod? Oh boyohboyohboyohboy! That's *bodacious*! (Please see page 140.) And *buggery*? We all know what that is, but did you know that it's from "Bulgaria," according to Grahn, source of a gay- and female-led religious philosophy arising in that country that spread over Europe in the 11th century. That's *great*!

The light bulb was burned out over that particular aisle of books, and the air was musty with

very old smells, but I wouldn't notice that until later. I was captivated by this gay life I had found as I lapped up the pages with a thirst for more. *Drag*: cross-dress, especially "being in drag," "going in drag," formerly "on the drag," from drag, dray, meaning "cart." Gay men and women cross-dressed to imitate the gods and rode in carts or "drags" in processions honoring pagan gods during the festivals of New Year's, Halloween, and other holidays.

After the glossary, a handy index led me to page after page of stories and tribal traditions of our ancestors, sentence after sentence of beautiful images from our colorful past to our evermore-enlightened future. From ancient Greece and Rome and the British isles, it was a short leap to imagine San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade and the other cities and towns in my life filled with festivity and tradition and gay worlds.

Yet, somehow along the way, the words had taken on new meanings, a derogatory tone, and

now I was finding out how those distortions had happened to hide our rich past from the struggles of the present. To dress in drag is to create a caricature, not a way to trivialize or mock those of another sex. It is a celebration, not a pejorative stereotype.

It was getting darker in the stacks when I realized that I didn't have to stand there without light, that I could check the book out and relish each new discovery in the comfort of home. I quickly scanned the rest of the history section for more gay language books and dashed for the circulation desk with mounting pride.

Once settled in at home, I headed to the glossary again. *Bulldyke*: In slang, a strong, warriorlike lesbian, assertive-looking gay woman; from the name of a warrior queen of the Celtic Hicca people (Boudica, "Boo-dike-a") who rose up against Roman colonization in A.D. 61. Variations of the slang word are bulldagger, bulldag,

(Continued on next page)



Doris Fish.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

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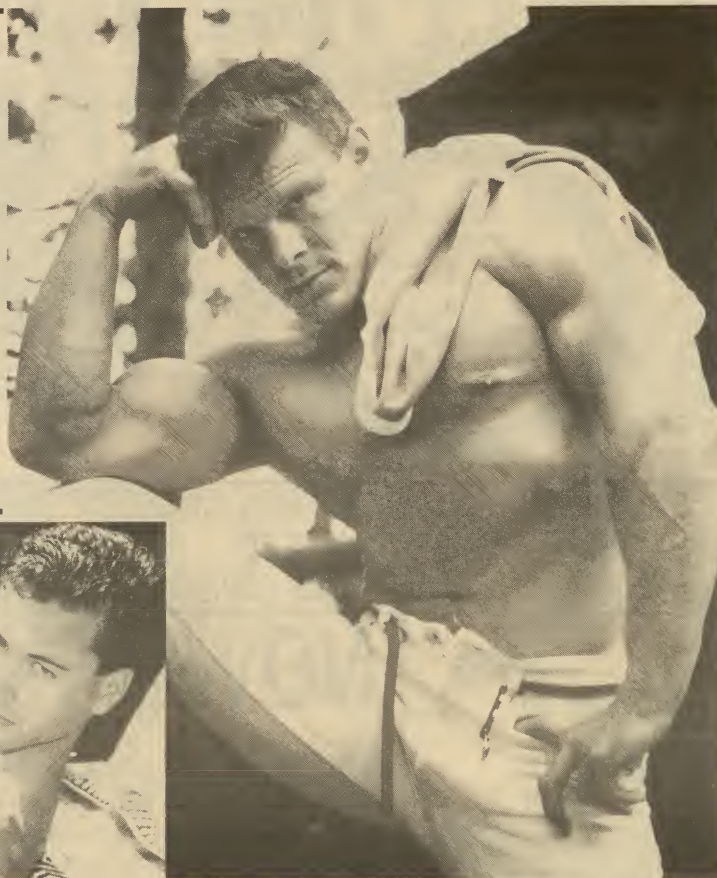
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Lesbian Comedy Video Kicks Off 'On Screen' Fest

Bay Area videomaker Cynthia Gaffney's *Evolution of a Sex Life*, a 15-minute humorous work about growing up lesbian and Catholic, kicks off the "American Shorts Program" at the fifth annual On Screen: A Celebration of Women in Film festival, which runs from Jan. 13-16 at the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres, 1991 Post Street in San Francisco. *Evolution of a Sex Life* plays at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14.

In *Evolution of a Sex Life*, Gaffney combines her film, video and animation talents to recount the history of her unique and not always "politically correct" sex life. Something of a comedic, lesbian "Everywoman," Gaffney says, "I exorcised a lot of demons, male and female, making this tape. It was a lot of fun, but it also brought up some of the more bizarre aspects of being a lesbian in America."

Evolution of a Sex Life has what Gaffney calls a "sacramental" format, tracing her initiation to sexuality from its "baptism" to her "holy communion," and on to the final "revelation." The tape plays along with Video Free America co-founder Joanne Kelly's *Hear Us Speak*, Jeanne C. Findley's *So You Want To Be Popular?* and seven other shorts by women filmmakers. ▼

Murphy

(Continued from previous page)

and, in the gay bar slang of the 1950s, diesel dike.

Cunnilingus: Lesbian act of oral sex; from Latin *cunne*, "female pudenda," and *lingus*, "tongue"; punned as "cunning linguist." Cunnilinguist? You would never see that in your college dictionary!

Nor would you most likely be able to find *tribadism*. I swear there was a conspiracy to hide that one from us. **Tribadism:** Lesbian sex act; rubbing a woman's pudenda with the thigh; from the Greek word *tribe*, meaning "the act of rubbing"; probably related to tribe, as in all who gather around a fire. I dove into the text on that one! My body was beginning to feel the warmth from those ancient fires.

This wise and informative book is filled with stories, interviews, myths, and traditions that encompass more than sexual preference, though. Judy Grahn takes us on a fabulous journey through a history that has influenced our way of life for thousands of years with undisguised words and clear vision.

Did you ever wonder where fairies came from? Or why it was said that only queers wore green on Thursdays? Did you ever consider the importance of Uranus

in your life? Remember fruit loops (not the cereal)? Fruit salad? Fruit picker? Fruit fly? Fruit bowl queen? Fruit jars? Or fruit baskets? Canastas? Did you know Dorothy? Have hobbies? Read books? Have you had fennel? Marched backwards? Enjoyed two tortillas rubbing together? Have you ever read about the rich history of gay traditions in American Indian tribes?

All of this and much, much more can be found in the growing stack of books that are our gay history. And, hopefully, the lightbulbs will have been changed for you.

Coming up this week on Thursday, Jan. 12, at Old Wives Tales Bookstore on Valencia, Katherine Sturtevant will read from her lesbian romance, *A Mistress Moderately Fair*, at 7:30 p.m. Then on Tuesday, Jan. 17, Mitsuye Yamada will be there from L.A. to read from her book of poetry, *Desert Run*. Look for Judy Grahn with her new book later in the month.

On Friday, Jan. 13, "On Screen: A Celebration of Women in Film" fifth annual festival opens at the Kabuki 8 Theaters, 1881 Post St., with *God's Will* by U.S. filmmaker Julia Cameron, and *In the Cage* by Barbara Sass of Poland. Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Rita Moreno will appear in person at a special tribute to her.



Ecstatic 49ers fans at the Bear roar their approval during last weekend's NFC game between San Francisco and the Chicago Bears.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

On Sunday, Jan. 15, the grand opening of *Skirts* (doesn't that sound like fun?), S.F.'s newest women's nightclub, at Club Townsend, Third Street at Townsend. Page Hodel will be taking music requests.

And, as always, there's just one more thing. Do you remember Doris Fish and the Sluts-a-Go-Go? They first appeared on the S.F. scene ten years ago—and they will return on Saturday, Jan. 14, in a gala, all-star night of com-

edy and music to benefit completion of the film *Vegas in Space* by Doris Fish and Phillip R. Ford. This sure-to-be one-of-a-kind variety show starts at 8:30 p.m. at the Victoria Theater. For info, phone 863-7576.

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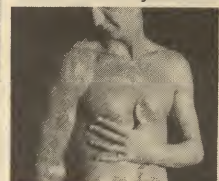
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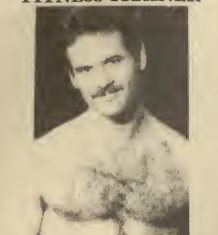
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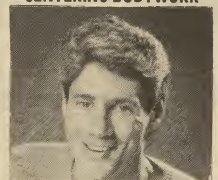
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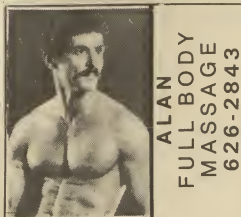
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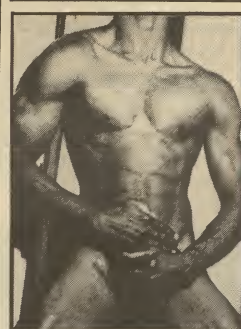


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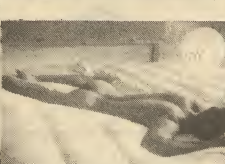
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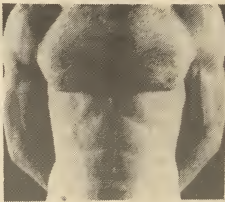
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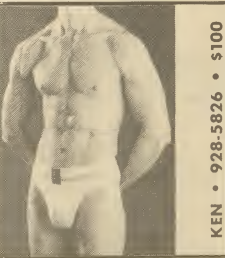
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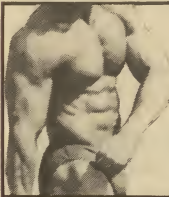
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BOWLING

He Remembered the Basics

McPherson Rolls 5th 700+ Series

by Will Snyder

Sometimes, a little vacation is all some people need. A trip to Paee. Lying in the sun on Waikiki. A Fishing trip where the salmon never stop biting. Mardi Gras in New Orleans. They're all nice little ways of getting away from it all.

For bowlers, a vacation sometimes means merely avoiding a bowling ball for a little while. B.A.R.'s crack bowling writer, Richard McPherson, found out that three weeks was all he needed to sharpen what he termed an "off" game recently. On Jan. 5 in the Hawaii League at Park Bowl, McPherson rolled games of 255, 278, and 203 for a 736 series.

The series was McPherson's fifth 700-plus set in the last two years, making him the first gay bowler to achieve over four such series in the 25-year history of the sanctioned gay league bowling in San Francisco. Last year, McPherson had 711 and 736 series scores. In 1987, he rolled three-game sets of 711 and 723.

McPherson found himself mildly surprised by his record-breaking night on the lanes.

"My game hasn't been on the past two months," he said, "and I hadn't picked up a bowling ball in the past three weeks over the holiday break, so I didn't feel a high score was in the air that night."

BAD START

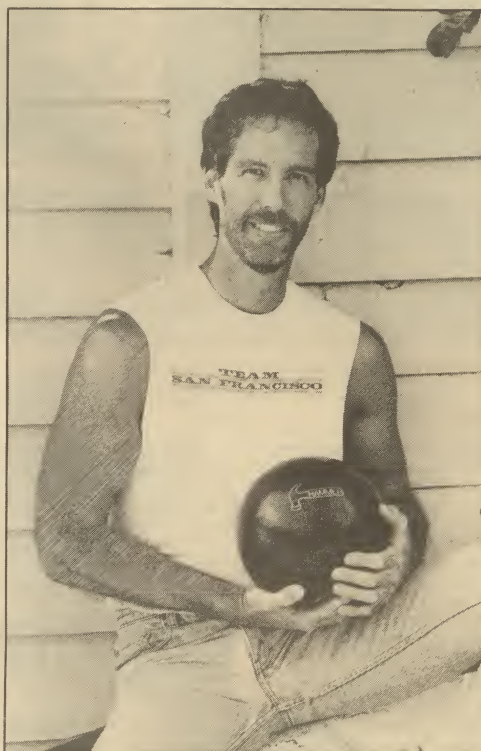
When McPherson started bowling that night, the Hawaii League's high game was rolled by Angelo Maggio, a 256. McPherson missed tying that score by one pin, but he was quick to point out that he wasn't sure he would have a good game at all, considering the way he started out.

"I began the game with a spare, an open frame and then another spare," he said. "I thought it was going to be another rough night. Then, I reminded myself of the basics: a straight back, walk up slow and follow through with the arm swing."

Eight straight strikes followed. One last strike would push McPherson past Maggio. A nine-count prevented him from taking over the lead.

But that situation was remedied with Game Two. He started out with three strikes, left a solid 10-pin and then strung out seven more strikes before leaving another 10-pin on his last ball. He ended with a 278.

"The 255 and 278 are my highest back-to-back scores ever," he said. "What did it feel like? It was one of those rare moments I experience every few months when I feel totally relaxed and confident. My form was consistent every frame and even though I didn't throw the ball in the same spot every time, it still made a direct line into the 1-3 pocket."



Richard McPherson.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

"It was a real high," he added. "Of course, the fact that the lanes were resurfaced a week ago helped provide a good shot."

McPherson said his third game, "only" a 203, was "anticlimactic."

"After the second game, I had visions of grandeur," he said. "My younger brother had bowled an 800-plus, three-game set a number of years ago and I felt tonight I could do the same. After all, I only needed a 267 game. I lost my concentration and tensed up during the last game, though, and couldn't get more than two strikes in a row. I was happy to get even a 203 that game."

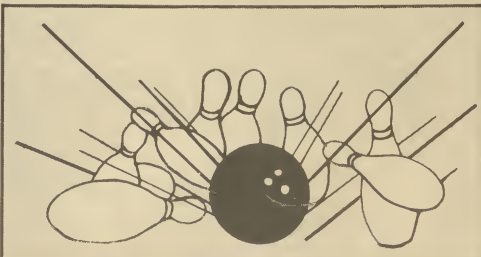
ON TOP

Despite his not being able to get that 267 for an 800 series, the 736 did help McPherson raise his average to 204. That pushed him into first place in the gay league average roster. That's one pin better than Jeff Hettmansberger, McPherson's closest friend and teammate.

McPherson said that, other than bowling a 300 game, nothing can quite match the thrill of rolling a 700 series. He remembered his very first 700 series with affection. "It was January of 1987 in the Wednesday Tavern Guild League," he said. "Park Bowl had just resurfaced the lanes and the air was heavy with the smell of lacquer. I must confess that the fumes made me really high and very relaxed. Even though I was using a house ball at the time, just about every ball went into the pocket."

"That night I wasn't very social," he added. "I just sat up in back of the lanes after each frame. I was totally spaced out. After the last ball, when I was told what I shot, I was thrilled beyond belief."

As for future bowling ambitions, McPherson said he may seek a sponsor and roll in the professional Central California Bowlers tournaments. But, he added, "I'll continue bowling in the TG leagues."



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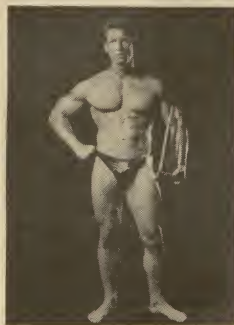
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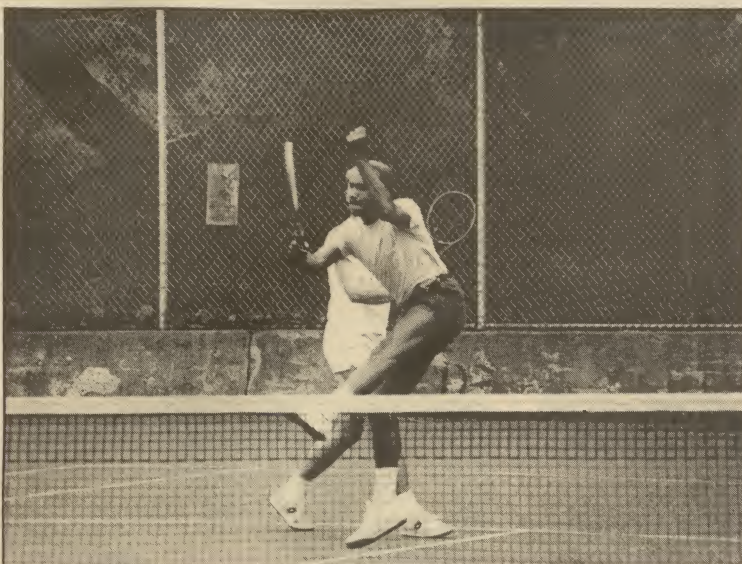
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TENNIS

GTF Meeting On Jan. 16

The '89 Forecast for Tennis: Fantastic!



The elation of a successful shot in doubles.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

by Les Balmain

Ho, Ho, Ho, and a Merry Christmas! Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. Marc, my generous and handsome roomy, left a word processor-typewriter for me under our sparkling tree, much to my surprise. Wow!! Thanks, Marc. I'm learning to use this "smart ass" thing right now which should help me present my sports editor with letter perfect copy for my future columns in the B.A.R. Hope so.

"The Gay Tennis Federation of San Francisco," announced Chris Walkey, president, "is launching into their ninth year in 1989, and we are right now under way in our membership recruitment program. We finished 1988 with 150 members, which included 29 women. We would like to go over 200 this coming year."

The membership fee was \$35 for one year and was due on Jan. 1 for all G.T.F. members. Old members and new recruits may pay their fee at this year's first meeting which will be held at Community Rentals office, 470 Castro, Monday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

"Team tennis is in the organizational stage," stated Ken Najour, Team Tennis Chairman, "and we are looking forward to having eight or more teams this year." Team tennis is a "round robin" event which begins in mid-April and ends in July. Teams of six players (A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2, C-1, C-2) compete against each other playing on alternate weekends. The top four teams make the playoffs and are awarded trophies.

Last year's champion was the Galleon Bar & Restaurant. Team selection is by blind draw after the Team Tennis Committee has rated each applicant's level of play. Applications are mailed to the membership in February.

The G.T.F. conducts a year-round challenge ladder which consists of A,B,C & D divisions of 20 members each. The challenge ladder is an enjoyable way to meet new members and establish your level of play.

The G.T.F. sponsors local tournaments throughout the year, as follows: A, B, C Doubles in March, U.S. Gay Open on Me-

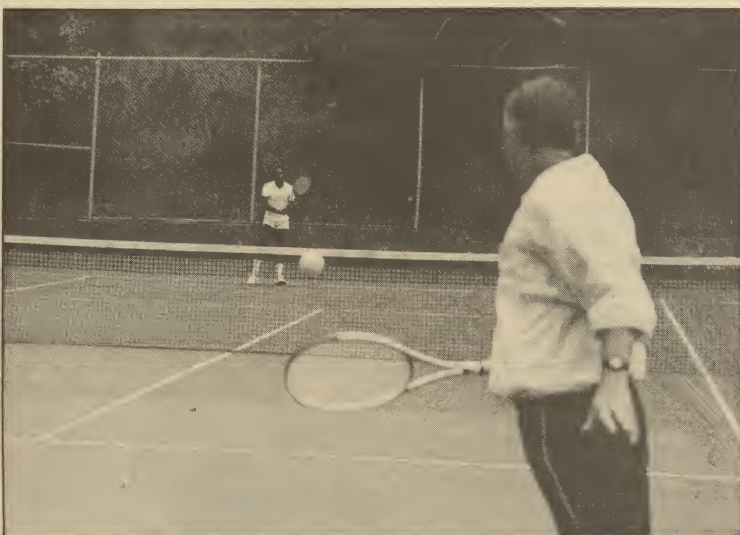
morial Day weekend, "Jim Holloran Classic" Singles in September and Mixed Doubles in August.

Open gay tournaments which we support and participate in, are in Los Angeles, San Diego, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, Seattle, and Denver.

Our social events and community projects also include Russian River weekend, Annual Awards Banquet, Christmas Party, and Gay Pride Parade.

Playing tennis is the name of the game, and we encourage men and women of all ages and levels of play to come join us! Players meet informally every day of the year at the "15th Street" courts (two blocks west of Castro) and the "16th Street" courts (one block west of Castro).

The year of 1989 should be another great year for gay tennis. If you can't make the meeting Monday night, people interested in application forms may call Rob McCann, secretary, at 941-1954, or write to: Gay Tennis Federation, 2215-R Market St., Suite 109, San Francisco, CA 94114. ▼



The form may not be great, but the ball just needs to go over the net.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

POOL

S.F. Hosts Challenge XVIII

Champion players representing over 1,000 league participants from S.F., San Diego, Long Beach and L.A. will converge this weekend, Jan. 13-15, for West Coast Challenge XVIII. It's a competition, rich in tradition, which represents the ultimate arena for league 8-ball aces.

It's the S.F. Pool Association's turn in the rotation of hosting the event and it includes the awesome task of setting up a first-class tournament facility complete with six tables, a bar, sound system, and food service for over 100 participants and officials. The Slovenian Hall at the corner of Vermont and Mariposa, just off the 101 freeway, will house the event, which features three concurrent tournaments.

The main event features the team competition between each of the four cities' champions. The matches are a race to nine, double elimination, and get under way Friday morning at 11 a.m.

Matches featuring the top four women players from each city will start at the same time as team play. Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. the second round of team play will coincide with the first of the open individuals' matches, featuring each city's top four players.

Official opening ceremonies are scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday and a guest celebrity is expected to be on hand.

Team and individual play will continue at 9 a.m. on Saturday and continue all day with a reception, dinner, and entertainment scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

If the team finalists have to play a tie-breaker, which is often the case, they will do so on Sunday at 9 a.m. At the same time both the women's and open individuals finalists' matches will commence. A memorable weekend will draw to a close at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday with an awards presentation.

The White Swallow Wave won this season's team competition in the S.F.P.A. and will carry with them our city's title hopes. S.F. has never lost a hosted WCC. Our last title was claimed by the Deluxe Ducks at WCC XIV. Good luck to team captain Rick Mariani, his likely starters will be Jim Russo, Colin Bradley, and Lynn Westhoven, and reservists, Chuck Numbers and Yutaka Moriyama.

S.F. players have won the open individuals' competition five times and Elliot Zalta will be on hand to defend the title he won last July in Hollywood. E.Z. will be joined by Rick Mariani, Jim Russo, and Royal Senn in the tournament. Rick and Jim have the dual task of representing S.F. in both the team and individual competition.

The Women's Individual Tournament is a new addition to the

event, having its official debut last season. For years, the appearance of women in WCC competition was rare and the addition of this tourney has added significantly to the level of interest and excitement by both spectators and participants.

Lisa Duncan, considered by many to be the best S.F.P.A. woman player, is again S.F.'s top seed. Lisa's teammate, Lauren Ward, is again seeded No. 2. Torri Connelly won the third spot but will be unable to participate due to a work-related conflict. Her disappointment opens the door for defending champion, Toni Maante, to participate because she qualified as the first alternate. League newcomer, Cathy Sutton won the fourth spot and will join all the participants in that sense of nervous anticipation which precedes a competition of this magnitude.

Dial JOE—POOL for S.F.P.A. information.

X-TA-C Ski Club to Meet Jan. 18



X-TA-C, San Francisco's only gay and lesbian cross country skiing club, has scheduled its first meeting of 1989 for Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at 1618 Castro Street. Those with surnames beginning A-L are asked to bring



a beverage; M-Z munchies. The meeting provides an opportunity to discuss the upcoming ski trips and activities. Prospective members are welcome. For further information, please call (415) 995-2736.

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Wooly's words of wisdom

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Regardless of league,
Whether major or minor,
Though not a Forty,
You're an Eighty-Niner.

—Bob Woolhouse

1999-MEET

Pope John Paul II Is Anti-Body

The Vatican and Homosexuality
Edited by Jeannine Gramick and Pat Turey
Crossroad; paperback: \$14.95

by Frank Howell

These days, it seems the Roman Catholic Church sets off a firestorm each time it issues a major opinion on almost any subject. The "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic

Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons" is no exception.

The Pope, like a weary traveler who never finds his destination, stumbles from one ideological pothole to another. Jeannine Gramick, co-founder of New Ways Ministry, and Pat Turey, a Catholic educator who prefers not to reveal her real name, have pulled together a compelling collection of viewpoints on the meaning and significance of John Paul II and what he really meant to say.

The document itself is first presented, and then defended, by San Francisco Archbishop John Quinn. The local cleric is considered as more enlightened than many bishops. In this, he attempts to defend John Paul II. He accents the positive, but essentially breaks no new ground.

Others in this spirited anthology defend the Pope, but basically serve up the same tired, old stew. Most of the essays are violently pro-gay.

Lillanna Kopp, in "A Problem of Manipulated Data," points out that the Vatican ignores all evidence from the social sciences regarding human sexuality. Previous letters from bishops have supported including scientific findings. In the battle of reason vs. dogma, religion wins every time.

Kopp searches through the

history of papal opinions and finds that marriage as a sacrament did not emerge until the 16th century. For generations, women were held in low esteem, and procreation was not highly valued until recent times.

Gramick analyzes polls taken among American Catholics and concludes that those in the pews want a person-centered, as opposed to an action-centered, theology of sex ("Rome Speaks, the Church Responds").

Our current pope is laterally anti-body in his writings through the years. Ronald Modras ("Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body") demonstrates in his probing essay that our current pope wants stern rationalism to prevail over spontaneous sexual desire. How one can become erotically stimulated under such a system is a mystery.

The raft analogy is brilliantly developed by Robert Francoeur ("Two Different Worlds, Two Different Moralities"). A group of people are sitting in a boat. Some are scanning the horizon, and others are merely gazing at the bottom of the craft. The church looks only downward, while science looks outward for additional information.

In "Homosexual Acts or Gay Speech" by Andre Guindon, we learn that homosexual language or concepts are totally ignored in favor of the dead language of out-moded religion. The Vatican is determined not to come to terms with the modern world.

One of the really cogent observations is made by J. Giles Milhaven ("How the Church Can Learn From Gay and Lesbian Experience"). Milhaven makes the point that the Vatican should consult directly with gays and others who are affected by its powerful ideas. (The same can be said of the Pope not communicating with married couples regarding the use of birth-control methods). Otherwise, his holiness is totally out of touch with his people. He could learn much from the gay community.

If the holy men of Rome do not mend their ways, the only solution, it seems to me, is to form an American Catholic Church composed of gays, married priests and nuns, and any other minority group that is adversely affected by the Holy See. America should declare its independence from the celibate old men from Italy. The present book is a step in the right direction. ●



Pope John Paul II.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

'89 Aquatics Championships Set For Easter Weekend in Vancouver

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The English Bay Swim Club invites all interested people to come and participate in the 1989 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships (IGLA 89), a preview to the aquatic events of Gay Games III—Celebration '90. Events are being held over the Easter weekend, March 24-26, and includes long course (50 meter) swimming, diving and water polo. Ending with an Easter Sunday awards brunch. Participants who want to officiate are also being encouraged to attend.

This will be the third IGLA Championship born out of Gay Games II as a means to encourage friendly competition between various gay and lesbian aquatic clubs. They plan to continue the tradition started in San

Diego in the first two championships of camaraderie and good times. The club has been operating for the past five years and is proud to host this event in their home pool, the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, a first-class facility.

Travel arrangements and accommodations can be made through Story Travel, (604) 669-4611 (collect), which has arranged concessionary airline fares and will channel a portion of the commission to Gay Games, III. The club will arrange billeting for people who want this service.

For a registration package or further details, please write in care of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre or call at (604) 669-2382 or 689-0334. Registration deadline is Feb. 20. ▼



Try your form at the Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Championships in Vancouver. (Photo: Mark Kliem)

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INTERNATIONAL HIV-AIDS RESOURCES

QUALITY INFORMATION RESEARCH • CARE

USING THE BEST AVAILABLE KNOWLEDGE TO FIGHT AIDS

Our professional staff understands your anxiety in facing the uncertainties and unknowns of HIV infection. ViRx Medical Group's commitment is to provide you the best of what is known—whether you are HIV seropositive or suffering from ARC or AIDS. We have the resources in San Francisco and Paris to do just that. And our physicians take the time needed to answer your questions about the disease and treatment. Our purpose is simple: to provide you with the most current information and quality patient care.

LEADERS IN RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

Confidence in your physician and medical team is critical in combating HIV infection. The professional staff and scientific advisory board of ViRx include a number of the world's leaders in AIDS research and treatment. ViRx President Robert E. Anderson, M.D., is a clinical pathologist specializing in HIV infection. In 1983, he founded the pioneering San Francisco Men's Health Study, one of the most comprehensive studies of HIV infection. Before founding ViRx, he was Chief of the AIDS Section of the California Department of Health Services.

WORLDWIDE INFORMATION NETWORK

If you are seropositive, nothing is more important to your health than access to the most current HIV research and treatment information. Clinical researchers here and in Paris continuously gather and evaluate this information for ViRx through their worldwide network of HIV disease experts. That knowledge is available to you and incorporated in your treatment.

ViRx OFFERS NEW DRUG TRIALS

The need for expanded drug trials is acute and obvious. To help accelerate the process, ViRx has a specialized HIV disease research laboratory that meets the necessary high medical and scientific standards. We currently have openings for ongoing trials and are seeking participants for upcoming trials. The trials last over several months and include regular laboratory monitoring.

COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT SERVICES

- **Monitoring:** Recommended for anyone testing HIV seropositive. Also if you are self-administering drug therapies, periodic monitoring is essential. Includes regular laboratory testing, plus physician examination and consultation.
- **Physician Consultation:** Comprehensive or limited.
- **Laboratory Tests:** HIV-p24 antigen; T helper (CD4) cell count; Beta-2 Microglobulin; complete blood count.
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